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Japan

Miyazawa's Message Stresses 'Candid' Bush Talks

OW3112104291 Tokyo KYODO in English 1028 GMT 31 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 1 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said in a New Year message to the nation that he hopes for candid talks with U.S. President George Bush during their summit meetings next week.

"I'd like to discuss with Bush how both nations can play their vital roles on a global scale," Miyazawa said in the written message, issued Wednesday.

Miyazawa also said he will try to strengthen Japan's friendly and cooperative relationship with South Korea during his trip to Seoul January 16-18, and added that Tokyo will proceed with its positive diplomacy in the Asian-Pacific region.

As one of the areas in which Japan will make efforts to contribute to the international community, the prime minister mentioned the issue of global environment.

On domestic affairs, Miyazawa reiterated his desire to enrich the daily lives of the people, and stressed the need for a just society.

He also said, "through political reforms, I hope to fashion a course for a new era."

In a separate message on international efforts to prevent natural disasters, Miyazawa said Japan must work to help solve the plight of many countries suffering from such disasters.

Miyazawa Views Trade Measures, U.S. Support

OW3112020891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0128 GMT 31 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 1 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa renewed his call for Japanese carmakers to come to the rescue of the dwindling U.S. car industry to keep the lopsided Japan-U.S. trade imbalance from ruining Japan's ties with its largest trading ally.

"I have appealed to auto industry leaders to help boost sales of U.S.-made cars in Japan and increase purchases of U.S.-made auto parts, as (Japanese carmakers) would be able to install U.S. parts in Japanese cars if they allowed (the U.S. parts makers) to jointly develop them from the initial stages for one or two years," Miyazawa said.

Miyazawa made the comment at a televised new year news conference at his official residence in an apparent bid to drum up national support for his conciliatory trade stance prior to the January 7-10 visit to Japan by U.S. President George Bush.

"I am asking industry leaders to take more seriously and compassionately the U.S. situation, epitomized by General Motors Corp.'s announcing it will shut down some of its factories," the prime minister said.

Urging the nation to consider the serious implications for bilateral ties of GM's plan to close 21 of its North American plants and slash its work force by 19 percent, he said, "GM is like the Stars and Stripes for American people."

"It came as a considerable shock to the Americans that GM has been defeated by (competition from) Japanese cars, though Japanese cars alone might not be responsible (for slower GM sales)," the prime minister said.

Warning of the possibility that the faltering U.S. trade performance might fuel momentum toward global protectionism, he said, "it is crucial that Japan do whatever it can (to whittle down its trade surplus) not only for the sake of the U.S., but for the peace and prosperity of the whole world."

He underlined his resolve to respond to Bush's appeal for joint contributions to global peace and prosperity at the latter's December 7 address at Pearl Harbor commemorating the 1941 Japanese attack that brought the U.S. into World War II.

At that time, Bush called for bolstering Japan-U.S. cooperation on world issues in order "to build a future energized by free markets and free people" by renouncing war-time grudges against Japan.

"When I heard President Bush say he has no rancor and that the loss of so many U.S. citizens would not be in vain if the two nations should cooperate to contribute to the world, I appreciated the President's courage in making such a speech before survivors of Japan's air raids and veterans of U.S. warships (sunk by Japanese warplanes)," Miyazawa said.

"I think Japan has to respond sincerely to such goodwill," he said.

As for international trade negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade (GATT), he said it would be "politically impossible" to immediately achieve a domestic consensus to comply with international requests for Japan to lift its ban on rice imports and accept a GATT-proposal to introduce tariffication without exemptions.

However, Miyazawa made it clear that he personally acknowledges the wisdom of the proposal advanced by GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel. The tariffication concept calls for substituting nontariff barriers with tariffs and later phasing out the tariffs in a bid to secure a freer flow in global commerce.

"The proposed tariffication to follow the scrapping of non-tariff barriers is a rational idea," Miyazawa declared.

"I believe Japanese people understand that Japan's longtime stand of refusing to offer any concessions (in the face of international requests) is no longer acceptable," he said.

On global security issues following the disintegration of the Soviet Union, Miyazawa warned that North Korea's alleged nuclear weapons program, if unchecked, might jeopardize not only Asian but global security.

"Japan cannot help embracing serious anxieties about a possible proliferation of nuclear weapons as the result of North Korea's nuclear weapons development program, as the nation is very close to Japan," he said.

He urged Pyongyang to allow international inspection of its nuclear facilities in accordance with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty of which it is a signatory.

"Now that South Korea and the U.S. armed forces stationed in South Korea have made a very drastic concession (by withdrawing U.S. nuclear weapons from the Korean peninsula), it is North Korea's turn to make the next (conciliatory) move," he said.

"Now the ball is in the other side's (North Korea's) court," he declared, adding that he will take up the issue in his summit talks in January with South Korean President No Tae-u.

On international efforts toward ensuring peace in Cambodia, Miyazawa said Japan wants to host an international conference in Tokyo to coordinate efforts to reconstruct the nation's economy and infrastructure.

U.S. Opponents 'Waiting To Pounce' on Bush

OW2912035991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0312 GMT 29 Dec 91

(By Antonio Kamiya)

[Text] Washington, Dec. 28 KYODO—As President George Bush travels to Asia to promote American jobs through trade, his political opponents at home are waiting to pounce at the first sign of trouble at the start of the presidential election year.

Mired in a seemingly intractable recession, Bush's 10-day swing to Australia, Singapore, South Korea, and Japan has turned into an issue which could determine the nature of debate in the presidential race.

Bush, faulted in opinion polls for his failure to lift the economy, has laid down the stakes.

Speaking to foreign reporters 11 days before his tour, Bush called his December 30-January 10 trip a mission "to create jobs and restore prosperity for all Americans."

Bush vowed to "relentlessly pursue" his mission and, in a move to show he means business, will be taking 21 corporate executives with him.

But Bush's opponents—on both sides of the political spectrum—are not impressed and the rumblings of discontent could build to an eruption if his self-assigned "jobs-for-Americans" tour fails to achieve its aim, particularly during Bush's January 7-10 stop in Japan.

Japan, with a massive bilateral trade surplus that refuses to go away, is likely to become the whipping boy of congressional ire in election year.

Congressman Richard Gephardt, the Democratic majority leader in the House of Representatives, has already laid out a tough bill aimed solely at Japan, if Bush returns home empty-handed.

Bush's allies in the Republican Party too are fretting about the political implications if Bush's trip does not produce results that can satisfy his political foes.

Congressman Frank Wolf, a Republican from Virginia, said the outcome of Bush's trip to Japan will be vital in deciding whether the "Japan problem" will be a major issue in the 1992 presidential race and in the congressional attitude toward Japan.

"Congress and the country will be watching carefully as to what the outcome of the (Japan trip) is," Wolf said in an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE.

Gephardt, one of the most vocal congressional critics of Japan's trade policy, does not mince words.

"If the president's actions in Asia next year are insufficient, and I fear they will be, progress on trade will finally come from the remedies we have written into the Trade Enhancement Act of 1992," he said earlier this month in announcing the tough trade bill targeted at curtailing Japan's auto exports in order to achieve balanced trade.

Gephardt is not alone.

Both Democratic and Republican presidential hopefuls have made sure that Bush remembers that message when he meets Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

Bush "ought to say, we're going to insist on fair trade," said Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton, one of the six Democratic presidential candidates, in a recent TV debate in summing up one of the few issues the six agreed on, apart from removing Bush from the White House.

The trade positions taken by the Democratic presidential hopefuls are nothing if not tough-sounding.

"I would tell the Japanese when I went to Japan in my term as president, we are going to reduce that trade deficit to zero," declared Iowa Sen. Tom Harkin in the December 15 NBC-TV debate.

Nebraska Sen. Bob Kerrey joined in. "They've got a 100 billion dollar surplus with the world as well as a 40 billion dollar surplus with us," he said.

"Our president should say, revalue the yen immediately. We should have balanced trade as an objective in an overall way, not just individual nations."

In an unlikely alliance, the Democratic presidential hopefuls were joined on trade policy by Pat Buchanan, the conservative challenger to Bush for the Republican presidential ticket and champion of the "Come Home, America" isolationists.

In Buchanan's view, a perspective increasingly shared by many Democrats frustrated with America's inability to crack the Japanese market, Japanese business executives are "predatory traders" who target American industries for destruction by flooding the U.S. market with underpriced products.

"If I am elected, they will find themselves on a collision course with the president of the United States," Buchanan warned in announcing his bid for the presidency.

Predicts Wolf, "if the president's visit and other (efforts) in the future don't bear fruit, then I think there may very well be...strong repercussions both in the Congress and in this country."

U.S. 'Policy Debate' on Isolationism Analyzed

OW2912055791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0525 GMT 29 Dec 91

(By Antonio Kamiya)

[Text] Washington, Dec. 29 KYODO—With the end of the cold war, a foreign policy debate pitting globalists against a new breed of "America-First" neo-isolationists is gripping the United States.

The debate has been simmering in the U.S. foreign policy establishment over the past few months but now takes on greater immediacy as Americans, troubled by economic ills, plunge into a presidential election year that is likely to shape the U.S. outlook on the world.

The foreign policy platforms of all declared Democratic presidential candidates already emphasize the primacy of domestic over foreign policy.

And within the Republican ranks, the call for "America First" has gained new respectability through the eloquence of columnist Patrick Buchanan, the declared Republican presidential challenger.

For his part, President George Bush, an avowed internationalist, has declared war on what he called "flat-earth theories" of isolationism and protectionism.

"I certainly will not permit [us] to retreat into a kind of Fortress America," Bush declared in a major foreign policy speech delivered in New York in November.

Under the banner of a "New World Order," Bush has chartered a policy of total U.S. engagement in the post-cold war world along with its allies and new found friends in erstwhile communist governments.

Politically, Bush envisions the demise of totalitarianism and the triumph of democracy throughout the world.

Strategically, Bush believes that America must stay alert and prepared, reinforced by an assiduously built network of military alliances in Asia and in Europe.

Economically, Bush has vigorously defended free-trade principles as the basis for economic prosperity.

But that vision, first expounded by Bush after the fall of the Berlin Wall and sharpened following the break-up of the Soviet Union, has been greeted with increasing skepticism within the U.S.

The reason, as Bush has acknowledged, is believed to lie mainly with the troubled state of the U.S. economy.

Polls have also shown that the American public is looking inward, more concerned about domestic ills than overseas engagements.

Echoing the so-called "come home" sentiment, politicians and foreign policy experts are calling for greater emphasis on national revival and less on overseas involvement.

"With the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the cold war, our national security challenges are now fundamentally linked to our economic health and the quality of our relations with new economic superpowers like Japan," House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt said recently.

Many scholars believe that in a post-cold war world, economic power, as much as military strength, defines national status.

"Economic vitality will become as important an element of national power as military strength," former secretary of state Henry Kissinger said in a recent article musing on the nature of the new world order.

The U.S. currently spends nearly seven times as much on its military as any other member of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial powers, said Ted Carpenter, director of foreign policy studies at the Washington-based Cato Institute. He made his remarks during recent testimony to Congress.

Even with the scaled-down U.S. presence in Europe as projected by the Bush administration, the annual price tag will still be approximately 90 billion dollars [as received], Carpenter said.

Washington's obligation to defend Japan, South Korea, and other East Asian allies costs another 40 billion dollars.

For Asia, "America-First" scholars also push a similar argument.

"The real challenge facing the United States in East Asia today is not military but is rather economic competition," said Kevin Kearns, a fellow at the Economic Strategy Institute, a Washington-based conservative think-tank.

Carpenter said it is wrong to believe that Japan and the West European powers will continue to follow Washington's leadership as they did throughout the cold war is wrong. [sentence as received]

Kearns agrees. "It is high time that our policies began to deal fully with the emergence of Japan from beyond the American shadow," he said.

He argues that the U.S., as part of its security alliance against the Soviet Union, gave special privileges to its Asian allies so that they would become economically strong and resistant to the potential encroachment of communism.

Kearns said the U.S. should adopt new policies which promote "American economic, commercial, social goals, and foster well-being at home."

Without such policies, he warned, the U.S. security posture abroad, no matter how strong or how well-intentioned, "will not save us from internal decay."

Bush responded to the "America First" champions, however, in a December 3 speech when he said, "this is 1991, not 1791. Horse and buggy attitudes won't carry us into the next century."

Business Hails Increased ODA in Budget Plan

OW2812090891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0843 GMT 28 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 28 KYODO—Japanese business leaders Saturday welcomed the government's decision to substantially increase Official Development Assistance (ODA) outlays in fiscal 1992 despite tight revenue conditions.

Rokuro Ishikawa, chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, however, asked the government to stimulate the slow domestic economy through "flexible fiscal measures," such as the compilation of a supplementary budget during the fiscal year, beginning next April 1.

He was commenting on the fiscal 1992 budget plan adopted by the government at the day's special cabinet meeting.

Masaru Hayami, chairman of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives, hailed the ODA budget, saying that it shows Japan's direction in responding to the changing global environment.

The fiscal 1991 budget plan earmarks 952.2 billion yen as ODA appropriations, up 7.8 percent from the fiscal 1991 initial budget.

The ODA growth rate strikes a sharp contrast with a modest 4.5 percent increase in general account expenditures, the core of the general account spending in the budget.

Naohiko Kumagai, president of Mitsui and Co., seems to have expected a greater growth in the ODA budget, but supported the figure, saying it will help Japan contribute more to the world.

"The important thing is the quality and not the quantity," said Takeshi Nagano, president of the Japan Federation of Employers' Association, however. He called for a careful study and consideration in the future so that overseas assistance will be extended to developing nations in a more effective manner.

The defense budget increase in fiscal 1992 is the smallest in 32 years. It has been set to increase 3.78 percent to 4,551.8 billion yen.

Still, the growth rate represents an improvement from an initial 3.4 percent increase originally proposed by the Finance Ministry, meaning that the Defense Agency can now spend more money on related items including improving the living conditions of defense personnel.

Nagano said the 0.38 point rally is adequate considering that military tension still exists in East Asia.

Commenting on the modest growth of the defense budget, Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations, said that the government firmly held the unprecedented restraint. It is in line with the stabilizing world situation after the end of the cold war, he said.

Overall, Hiraiwa said he can feel the pain the government had to go through in the compilation of the budget plan, sandwiched between shrinking revenue and the need to stimulate the decelerating economy.

Yutaka Saito, chief of the Japan Iron and Steel Federation, however, complained that virtual continuation of some tax hikes would lead to cooling down business sentiment.

Foreign 'Pressures' Partly Behind CB Rate Cut

OW3012014991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0117 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 30 KYODO—The Bank of Japan (BOJ) on Monday lowered the official discount rate 0.5 percentage point to 4.5 percent per year, effectively immediately, to prop up the slowing domestic economy.

The central bank [CB] made the decision at an extraordinary meeting of its policy board early Monday morning.

The latest reduction was unusual in that it came so soon after its previous cut November 14, when the BOJ pruned its key lending rate 0.5 percentage point to 5.0 percent.

Monday's reduction is the bank's third cut of the year.

The move is aimed at preventing a stall in the economy, which is showing signs of a downturn, financial analysts said.

Pessimism regarding the economy spread quickly after the release of the leading index for October and other economic indicators that pointed to a sagging economy, they said.

The Economic Planning Agency released last Tuesday its index of leading economic indicators.

The coincident index, which includes production and employment figures, stood flat for the first time since February 1982.

The rate cut was also prompted by concern that a further erosion of corporate confidence in the outlook of the economy would induce firms to lower their capital spending plans next year.

Capital and consumer spending are considered two engines of the economy.

Calls by the United States for Japan to step up domestic demand have heightened in the wake of the resurgence of Japan's current account surplus.

The BOJ action follows a decision by the U.S. Federal Reserve Board to slash its discount rate 1 full percentage point to 3.5 percent December 20.

The German Bundesbank, however, raised its discount rate 0.5 percentage point to 8 percent December 19.

It also raised the Lombard rate 0.5 percentage point to 9.75 percent.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa has stressed the need to implement a comprehensive strategy for the economy in advance of U.S. President George Bush's visit to Tokyo early next month.

The rate cut is also seen as reflecting government consideration of foreign pressures.

Mieno Denies U.S. Influence

OW3012043091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0410 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 30 KYODO—Bank of Japan (BOJ) Governor Yasushi Mieno said Monday the central bank cut the official discount rate earlier in the day to help make the economy more balanced.

Speaking at a press conference, Mieno said the central bank took into account financial and economic trends when it trimmed its key lending rate 0.5 percentage point to 4.5 percent per annum.

The bank "particularly kept in mind the fact that the period between January and March is when firms draw up their capital spending plans for the coming fiscal year," he said.

The governor said the central bank did not take into account political considerations, such as U.S. President George Bush's visit to Japan early next month, when deciding to slice the rate.

He denied a direct link between the rate cut in Japan and a similar one in the United States.

The U.S. Federal Reserve Board slashed its official discount rate by 1 percentage point to 3.5 percent December 20 in a bid to boost the sputtering economy.

Bush has been widely reported to be readying pressure on Japan to relax its grip on credit to prop up the Japanese domestic demand, which would help slash Japan's ballooning trade and current-account surpluses and help yank the U.S. economy out of recession, analysts said.

Thus, many of the analysts see the latest BOJ move as an attempt to ease the mounting friction between Tokyo and Washington in advance of Bush's January 7-10 trip.

Mieno said the rate cut was prompted by the slight acceleration of the economic downturn, which has made corporations cautious by further clouding the outlook for the economy.

The central banker cited the slow growth rate of the money supply, the trend toward a stronger yen, and lower inflationary pressures as major reasons for the rate cut.

He said consumer prices are still a worry, but that the growth in wholesale prices is virtually zero.

The impact of wholesale prices should gradually affect comsumer prices, Mieno said.

He said the bank examined the current economic situation, in which short- and long-term interest rates are falling despite a leveling off of overnight rates due to seasonal factors.

Mieno expressed hope that firms would build up their management foundation, saying the central bank has set the stage for a sufficient transition to a more desirable economy.

The central bank must continue to keep a close watch over prices because of the trend toward higher service charges stemming from the prevailing labor crunch, Mieno said.

The governor said the bank's cautious monetary policy is unchanged and that its latest move has taken price trends into consideration.

Commenting on the removal next month of the Finance Ministry's restrictions on real estate loans, he said the government's efforts to head off another upsurge in land prices and banks' recent lending policies would prevent a recurrence of such price movements, he said.

The ministry has prohibited the growth in loans for real estate purchases from exceeding that for overall lending since April last year as causing the huge rise in land prices.

Mieno also indicated that the central bank would tolerate lower money market rates.

Reaction to Interest Rate Cut Reviewed

OW3012064291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0618 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 30 KYODO—The Bank of Japan (BOJ) lowered the official discount rate by a half percentage point to 4.5 percent per annum Monday in a surprise move aimed at boosting the Japanese economy.

It was the third reduction in the key lending rate this year following identical 0.5 percentage point cuts on July 1 and November 14.

Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno told reporters the rate cut was prompted solely by domestic factors, brushing aside speculation that the move was aimed at easing the mounting trade friction between Japan and the United States ahead of U.S. President George Bush's visit to Japan on January 7-10.

Mieno described the rate cut as a precautionary step against a further downturn of the economy ahead of the first quarter of next year when corporations work on their investment plans.

"We particularly kept in mind the fact that the period between January and March is when firms draw up their capital spending plans for the coming fiscal year," he said.

Mieno, in an unprecedented move, appealed to corporations to make efforts to put their management on a more solid foundation to take advantage of the fact that the central bank has set the stage for a transition to a more balanced economy.

He ruled out the possibility that the rate cut would spur a resurgence of the real estate speculation boom and said it would instead affect consumer ICE [International Currency Exchange] movements favorably.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata welcomed the central bank decision as a timely step in line with the government's efforts to stimulate the economy.

Hata said the central bank decision will be welcomed by Washington, but that it was made at the bank's own discretion.

"The government is committed to sustaining economic growth without fears of inflation, and it is determined to pursue an economic policy which will preclude the rekindling of the bubble economy," he said, in a reference to the inflated land and stock market prices of recent years.

The business community welcomed the central bank decision as good news.

Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the powerful Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), said "the decision will have favorable effects on the domestic economy."

Hiraiwa said the current state of the economy is far severer than judged by the government.

Takeshi Nagano, president of the Japan Federation of Employers Associations (Nikkeiren), said the central bank's decision was favorable because it would help attain the economic growth target of 3.5 percent set by the government for fiscal 1992, beginning April 1.

Financial analysts said Miyazawa's policy initiative ahead of Bush's trip to Japan apparently was behind the central bank decision.

Toshio Ito, chief economist at Sumitomo Bank, said he was sure "a strong initiative of Prime Minister Miyazawa" was behind the central bank's rate cut.

"The cut also reflects a sense of impending crisis on the nation's economic outlook within the government and the central bank," Ito said.

Yukio Yanbe, chief economist at Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank, said the rate reduction apparently was designed to underpin the nation's domestic demand in view of Japan's bloated global trade surplus.

Miyazawa, Hata Hail Rate Cut

OW3012023491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0217 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 30 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata on Monday hailed the official discount rate cut by the Bank of Japan (BOJ) earlier in the day.

Miyazawa described the BOJ action as a timely step, which followed the government's decision on a 72.22 trillion yen budget for fiscal 1992 beginning in April. He said the budget included a sharp increase in public works investment despite the severe financial conditions.

The Japanese central bank lowered the discount rate by 0.5 percentage point to 4.5 percent Monday morning, effective immediately.

The central bank's action is [in] line with the government's efforts to stimulate the economy in compiling the budget plan as well as the earlier decision to lift restrictions on bank lending for real estate-related deals, Miyazawa said.

The prime minister made the comment in a statement released at a hotel where he is staying in the seaside resort of Ito, Shizuoka Prefecture.

Finance Minister Hata, in welcoming the discount rate cut, also termed it a timely step to help achieve a smooth continuation of economic growth without inflation.

He expressed hope that the central bank's rate cut and the government's budget plan will have a favorable impact on every sector of the economy and boost the people's confidence in the economic outlook.

The Finance Ministry proposed to the BOJ's policy board on Monday morning that rates on postal savings and bank deposits be lowered in line with the latest cut in the official discount rate, Hata said.

Hata said the discount rate cut was made by the BOJ on its own judgment but would meet U.S. expectations for lower interest rates in Japan.

Thanks to the discount rate cut, Hata said, Japanese will face the new year with increased economic confidence.

Takeshi Noda, director general of the Economic Planning Agency, said the cut would not affect price trends, since both wholesale and consumer prices are stable.

Noda said the cut is also designed to restore business confidence, noting that most companies work out their business projects in the January-March period for the new fiscal year, which starts April 1.

International Trade and Industry Minister Kozo Watanabe hailed the discount rate cut as "timely," saying he expects the cut to have a "favorable impact" on the Japanese economy.

He said in a statement that lower interest rates are expected to lead to improved business confidence and increased capital spending.

Business Welcomes Rate Cut

OW3012045191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0441 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 30 KYODO—Business leaders welcomed Monday's official discount rate cut by the Bank of Japan (BOJ) as likely to revive flagging corporate confidence in the prospects for the economy.

The central bank lowered the rate it charges on loans to banks by 0.5 percentage point to 4.5 percent per year Monday morning, effectively immediately.

"I highly evaluate the BOJ's prompt and daring decision," said Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren).

Rokuro Ishikawa, chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, also praised the rate cut without reserve, saying, "the decision will have a good effect on the economy. The real economic situation is severer than the government's estimate, as corporate confidence has cooled down. This is good news."

Takeshi Nagano, president of the Japan Federation of Employers Associations, said, "the timing is good, too. This is a favorable decision."

The government's latest forecast said the nation's economy will grow 3.5 percent in fiscal 1992 from the previous year but the private sector considered that target unrealistic if the situation remained unchanged, Nagano said.

Hiraiwa said the rate cut is aimed at having a psychological effect in terms of financing as the government's budget plan for fiscal 1992 turned out relatively austere because of tight resources.

"The rate cut is welcome in terms of international cooperation ahead of (U.S. President George) Bush's visit early next year," said Hiraiwa.

Industrial circles also welcomed the rate cut. Tadahiro Sekimoto, president of NEC Corp., said, "I had thought a rate cut is a must."

Since the government has just taken budgetary means by issuing additional construction bonds and expanding the fiscal investment and loan program or the so-called second budget, the rate cut will work in conjunction with this as a financial means to underpin cooling corporate confidence, Sekimoto said.

Securities houses also welcomed the rate cut, with one dealer at a leading securities firm saying, "(the cut took place) earlier than expected, since we predicted it early next year."

As for the impact of the rate cut on the stock market, however, the dealer said, "it is hard to tell whether stock prices will show a recovering trend at the beginning of next year because the deteriorating demand-and-supply situation in the stock market has not yet improved."

Securities firms expect stock prices will move at a level to call for another rate cut during the January-March period, industry sources said.

Industrial BOJ To Cut Long-Term Prime Rate

OW2612083991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0752 GMT 26 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 26 KYODO—The Industrial Bank of Japan [BOJ] announced Thursday it will cut the long-term prime lending rate by 0.3 percentage point to 6.6 percent per annum effective January 6.

The reduction, the first in three months, follows a decision by the nation's three long-term credit banks and other debenture-issuing financial institutions to lower the coupon on the January issuance of five-year interest-bearing debentures by the same margin from the December issue to 5.7 percent per annum.

Other long-term credit banks—the Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan and Nippon Credit Bank—and other debenture issuers are expected to follow suit.

The long-term prime rate is charged on loans to the most creditworthy customers.

The three banks set their prime rate 0.9 percentage point above the coupon for their new monthly issue of five-year debentures.

Hata Says Economy Entering Adjustment Stage

OW2712061391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0345 GMT 27 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 27 KYODO—Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata predicted Friday that the Japanese economy which has slowed down will pick up slowly after the summer of 1992.

Hata told reporters after a regular cabinet session that the domestic economy has entered a stage of adjustment but its fundamentals still remain strong, supported by robust capital spending plans made by corporations.

He expressed hope that the fiscal 1992 budget would help expand domestic demand since it is aimed at propping up the economy.

The government is scheduled to endorse a 72 trillion yen budget for the new fiscal year starting April 1 at a cabinet session Saturday.

Hata said he and Economic Planning Agency Director General Takeshi Noda spoke to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa before the cabinet meeting and briefed him on the new budget, which Hata said gives preference to investment in public works and the government's investment and loan program.

Anlysts Predict Strengthening of Tokyo Stocks

OW3012084591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0803 GMT 30 Dec 91

["Tokyo Stocks Seen To Gradually Strengthen in 1992 (by Hisa Y. Miyatake)"—KYODO headline]

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 30 KYODO—Tokyo stocks are seen to gradually surge in 1992 riding the current wave of falling interest rates.

Market participants are seen to continue to increase on expectations that the Bank of Japan would further ease credit conditions in order to boost Japan's economy which has been showing slowdown of its expansion in 1991, brokerage insiders said.

The central bank reduced the discount rate, charged on loans to banks, by half a percentage point to 4.5 percent per annum Monday following the two cuts of the same margin in July and November.

However, it is hard to predict that the market will be dynamic in 1992 as investing energy of both individual and institutional investors has been totally cooled off, mainly by the so-called stock scandals which surfaced this summer, economists said.

The market should show frequent ups and downs, affected by the election for Japan's House of Councillors scheduled in July as well as the U.S. Presidential election in November.

Additionally, the uncertainty surrounding the development of the new Commonwealth of Independent States which replaced the Soviet Union will overshadow not only the Tokyo market but also other stock markets, economists predict.

Most market analysts predict the Nikkei Index would move between 22,000 and 28,000 during 1992, one trader said.

The Nikkei Stock Average of 225 selected first-section issues lost 1,085.41 points to end the 1991 session at 22,983.77 Monday.

The broader-based Tokyo Stock Price Index (Topix) of all first-section issues declined 26.24 points to 1,714.68.

The daily turnover this year was 372.85 million shares, down from 483.87 million shares in 1990. The figure is the lowest since 1984, when it stood at 345.76 million shares.

Looking back on 1991, the Tokyo stock market lacked a definite direction, reflecting negative factors both in overseas and domestic economic situations.

After starting the year with wide fluctuations in response to the outbreak of the Persian Gulf war in January, the market was boosted in the following two months on expectations that credit should be eased.

Thanks to the continued gains on Wall Street at this time, the Nikkei Index finally reached the year's high of 27,146.91 March 18. Market participants also attributed the rise to so-called triple merits from falling interest rates, the yen's appreciation against the U.S. dollar, and lower crude oil prices.

However, the market followed a downward trend in May and June due mainly to the worse-than-expected earnings results of many business corporations, coupled with lacking fresh incentives for buying.

The stock scandals hit the market in June and their effects persisted for several months. Despite an official discount rate cut by the Bank of Japan (BOJ) on July 1, investing energy was totally cooled off on a series of news reports that the "big four" brokerage houses—Nomura, Daiwa, Nikko, and Yamaichi—and smaller firms had compensated the trading losses of favored clients.

Alleged underworld linkage between brokerage houses and yakuza groups, Japan's gangsters, also drove away both institutional and individual investors.

The Nikkei Index remained at the 23,000 level until mid-August, while trading was extremely slow, with the daily volume standing around 200 million shares in early August.

On August 19, a news report that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev was replaced in a coup damaged the market, pushing down the Nikkei Index by 1,357.61 points, the fifth largest decline for a single day ever, to mark the year's low of 21,456.76.

Amid lackluster sentiment, only foreign investors remained active buyers in the September-November period.

However, poor earnings reports from corporate firms for the April-September period and worsening supply-demand imbalance stemming from closing of fund trusts and "tokkin" specified money trusts eclipsed investing activities for the rest of the trading in 1991.

Predicting what is ahead for the stock market in 1992, most market participants seem to believe it will recover somewhat from the slump seen in the past two years.

The market next year should be balanced among three major factors—the development of supply-demand imbalance, earnings reports from Japan's companies, and growing expectations of lower interest rates, said Yasuo Ueki, general manager of Nikko Securities Co.'s equities operations group.

Although deepening supply-demand imbalance caused by closing of fund trusts and "tokkin" funds will overshadow the market in the first three months of 1992, expectations that the BOJ would ease its grip on credit should conquer bearish sentiment and raise the market, Ueki said.

The BOJ is expected to continue to allow short-term money rates to move lower in the January-March period in line with the key lending rate cut to 4.5 percent December 30.

As a result, investing energy, particularly of institutional investors, will grow gradually until around June to raise the Nikkei Index as high as 26,000 some time in the June-August period, said Toshihiko Fujiwara, New Japan Securities Co.'s general manager of investment information department.

A trader at Daiwa Securities Co. said that in the later half of 1992, share prices are seen to strengthen further because the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and the government are expected to adopt a stimulative public investment policy ahead of the upper house election in July.

If economic slowdown becomes more evident at this time, it is highly possible that the BOJ would conduct another official discount rate reduction by the end of 1992, one trader said.

In 1992, investing emphasis will be placed on such stocks as public investment-related, environmental protection-oriented, and anti-AIDS-related issues, traders said.

Attracting more investors should be the top priority of the securities industry in 1992, said a foreign brokerage house trader.

Food Self-Sufficiency Rate Said To Fall to 47%

OW2612112991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1042 GMT 26 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 26 KYODO—Japan's food supply self-sufficiency rate fell one percentage point in fiscal 1991 from the previous year to a record low of 47 percent, the Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Ministry said in a preliminary report released Thursday.

Ministry officials said the calorie-based rate stood below the 50 percent level for the fourth consecutive year.

Expanded imports of farm produce and decreased consumption of rice contributed to the lower self-sufficiency rate, the officials said.

The overall self-sufficiency rate for food and feed grains was unchanged at 30 percent.

Few of the world's 13 major industrialized nations had a food self-sufficiency rate of less than 50 percent, the officials said.

The self-sufficiency rate for rice remained unchanged at 100 percent, the figures for meat and fruits declined two to four points due to increased beef imports and decreased production of "mikan" or tangerines.

Per capita rice supply for the year fell 0.6 percent to 70 kilograms. The per capita figures for vegetables and fruits decreased 2.5 percent and 1.3 percent, respectively, due to decreased domestic production.

Space Institute Begins Developing Mars Explorer

OW2112044991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0142 GMT 21 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 21 KYODO—The Institute of Space and Astronomical Science (ISAS) has started developing Japan's first Mars exploration project with plans to launch a "Planet B" explorer in the summer of 1996, institute officials said Saturday.

The institute will begin to manufacture a trial explorer spacecraft next year, with the actual Planet B scheduled to probe the atmosphere of Mars by 1997.

Japan will be the third country to send up a Mars explorer following the United States and the Soviet Union.

The main part of the 250-kilogram Planet B will be a cylinder two meters in diameter and two meters in height, which will be loaded with four solar battery panels, they said.

The institute, under the direct control of the Education Ministry, will appropriate a total of 12 billion yen for the project, the officials said.

According to a project schedule, the institute will put the Planet B into an orbit around Mars in October 1997, following a flight that will last more than one year.

Once in the orbit, the Planet B will continuously observe the planet for a period of more than two years, institute officials said.

The ISAS has been developing new large-scale M-5 rockets which will be used to lift the Planet B into orbit in the summer of 1996.

Past institute projects include the 1986 launching of two Halley's Comet explorers dubbed "Sakigake" and "Suisei," as well as other scientific satellites.

The U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) plans to launch its own Mars explorer in 1992.

Earth Summit for 1992 Attracts Corporations

OW3012060491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0344 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 30 KYODO—The United Nations-sponsored "Earth Summit" in June could lead to more equitable ways of sharing the world's wealth without destroying the environment, but only if the wealthiest nations, including Japan, are prepared to compromise.

The summit, officially known as the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), marks the 20th anniversary of the U.N. Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm.

Lasting benefits from the conference to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, can only come if the world's most powerful nations, Japan among them, adhere to resolutions to be adopted at the conference.

If there is unanimity, the conference could have long-term socioeconomic effects as fundamental as the 1944 Bretton Woods Conference which laid the basis for much of the world's financial structure since World War II.

Japan's UNCED contribution will take two forms—an official government submission and another from a nationwide coalition of scholars, lawyers, and environmentalists, known as the People's Forum for the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development.

The environment agency, drawing on the expertise of its 400 staff, is putting together the official government submission.

The unofficial People's Forum submission is being prepared by a variety of persons, mostly volunteers. The forum office in Tokyo has two full-time paid staff with a shoestring budget.

The UNCED agenda has six main items.

The first is a statement of principles concerning pressing environmental issues such as deforestation and climate change.

The second and most abstract is an earth charter.

The third item, "Agenda 21," is an action program on such issues as atmospheric pollution, deforestation, protection of marine living resources, and management of hazardous wastes.

Fourth is an agreement on funding for a global clean-up, and the fifth is an agreement on technology transfer or cooperation.

The final item is a debate on whether to set up new organizations or retain existing ones to achieve the aims of the conference.

The environment agency is preparing an April "conference of wise men" in Tokyo which the government claims as one of its most practical contributions to UNCED.

The conference, requested by UNCED Secretary General Maurice Strong, aims to find ways to finance UNCED proposals. It has the backing of former Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita.

Strong has frequently praised Takeshita, saying he is grateful for Japan's monetary contribution to preparations for Rio. Strong knows Takeshita's fund raising abilities but will not comment on his political connections.

Takeshita had to relinquish the prime ministership in 1989 over involvement in the Recruit stocks-for-favor scandal. But as leader of the largest faction within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, he retains tremendous power within the party.

In Japan, this translates into an ability to muster vast sums of money thanks to extensive links with leaders of large corporations, many of whom stand to gain from projected growth in ecoindustries which could be foreshadowed at the conference.

Coincidentally, environmental activists speak of behind-the-scenes attempts by Japanese corporations to secure black market hotel bookings for favored clients in Rio de Janeiro during UNCED.

Environment agency staff say some big names are on the invitation list for the Tokyo "wise men's conference."

These include former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, former Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt, and former President of the Asian Development Bank Kimimasa Tarumizu.

In Tokyo last June, Strong urged delegates to compromise for the sake of the earth and said Japan's role will be crucial.

He said a major obstacle will be demands from less developed nations for access to environmentally friendly technology developed by advanced, industrialized countries.

"We see this conference as being about fundamental changes which must be made in our lives and among nations and peoples internationally," Strong said.

"We must recognize that 75 percent of people on the planet are in developing countries and they must be fully enfranchised economically," he said.

Members of the People's Forum say the Japanese Government has not taken that message to heart. They say the government wants to promote the notion in Rio that Japan has survived the polluted 1970s and 1980s and solved its environmental problems.

Although the Rio conference will also take submissions from nongovernmental organizations, they warn that it is in essence a gathering of governments, all of which will bring their own national agendas to the discussion table, making true compromise difficult, if not impossible.

"If there is a standoff between the North and the South at Rio, there might not be any results," said one People's Forum member.

"And if we only have one such conference every 20 years, then this could be our last chance this decade to solve our environmental problems," she said.

Mongolia

Government To Receive $220 Million in Aid, Loans

OW2612151891 Beijing XINHUA in English
1427 GMT 26 Dec 91

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, December 26 (XINHUA)—Some donor states and international organizations have decided to supply a total of 220 million U.S. dollars in aid and loans to the Mongolian Government, Mongolia's newspaper "PEOPLE'S RIGHT" reported today.

Out of the sum, 150 million will be extended in loans on preferential terms and 70 million in interest-free aid. Forty percent of both will be given to the government by the end of this year.

At their two meetings on aid to Mongolia in Tokyo last September and Ulaanbaatar last October, the donor states and international organizations decided to provide an emergency aid to Mongolia to help the country tide over the current economic crisis.

IDA Approves Credits for Economic Rehabilitation

OW2112065191 Beijing XINHUA in English 0506 GMT 21 Dec 91

[Text] Washington, December 20 (XINHUA)—The International Development Association (IDA) has approved two credits totaling 35 million U.S. dollars to support Mongolia's economic rehabilitation.

The decision announced today is the first World Bank operation in Mongolia.

The first credit of 30 million dollars is to finance Mongolian critical import needs in the agriculture, energy and transportation sectors.

Filling the import need is expected to increase capacity utilization and thus increase production during the next 12 to 18 months.

The second credit of five million is of longer-term nature. It will go into supporting a technical assistance project which will help the Mongolian Government in its efforts to reform the public sector and promote private sector development.

North Korea

Daily Urges North-South Agreement Implementation

SK3112070091 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0015 GMT 31 Dec 91

[NODONG SINMUN 31 December special article: "Historical Agreement Must Be Fulfilled Sincerely"]

[Text] The Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, and Cooperation and Exchange Between the North and South adopted at the fifth round of North-South high-level talks is a momentous program for promoting peaceful reunification to put an end to the acute confrontational situation that has remained in our country for almost half a century. It can achieve national reconciliation and unity based on mutual trust and open a new phase in the country's peace and peaceful reunification.

The adoption and announcement of the historical agreement make it possible to promote national unity and provide a basis to achieve the nation's development for reunification and prosperity. A practical possibility was created for a momentous turning point in the fatherland's independent and peaceful reunification. Especially, since the North and South promised nonaggression and confirmed the common will to resolve the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula, a new breakthrough was opened to dissolve the acute tense situation between the North and South, to prevent the danger of a new or nuclear war, and to guarantee the country's solid peace.

The North and South must treasure and sincerely fulfill the program promoting peaceful reunification, which was provided after much effort, so that this can definitely lead to peace and reunification. The adoption of the historical agreement between the North and South is the first momentous event since the announcement of the 4 July joint declaration, but the country's peace and reunification cannot be achieved by it alone.

The North and South authorities and all politicians face the tasks of carrying out practical measures so that the adopted agreement can prove its worth as soon as possible and of exerting special effort to fulfill faithfully and sincerely all agreed upon matters.

Our party and the Government of the Republic, who bear the heavy responsibility for the fate of the fatherland and nation, must regard the joint agreement by the North and South as a valuable historical document which gives new hope to our people for reunification and manifests the nation's dignity and must make every effort for achievement at an early date. We recognize that carrying this out is a way to repay the consistent intention and expectation of the nation and is being faithful to the lofty spirit and content of the agreement.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: A problem that must be solved as soon as possible in hastening reunification of the fatherland is to guarantee peace on the Korean peninsula and provide a peaceful prerequisite for the reunification of the fatherland.

Peace on the Korean peninsula is the most pending issue to be resolved first of all between the North and South for the country's reunification and the nation's well-being. Nothing is more precious and important than peace for our people who are always living with the danger of war and nuclear war. The peace issue must be resolved as soon as possible so that the nation can be saved from the danger of a nuclear war. The acute military confrontational situation must be dissolved so that national reconciliation and unity can be achieved based on mutual trust, and cooperation and exchange must be successfully carried out.

Confrontation does not correspond with today's trend of detente and peace nor with the people's desire for peace and the nation's well-being. As long as the North and South promised nonaggression, there is no reason to compete with each other for victory and no need to waste the nation's strength and assets for this kind of insignificant confrontation between fellow countrymen.

To sincerely fulfill the promise on nonaggression, the North and South must free themselves from the concept of confrontation, give up the use of arms, resolve differences in opinion and issues of dispute through dialogue and consultation in a peaceful way, and take measures to create military trust and realize arms reduction as soon as possible. Along with this, as agreed upon, the North and South must resolve the nuclear issue in a fair and just way through the delegates contact so that a joint declaration for the denuclearization on the Korean peninsula can be adopted as soon as possible. Therefore, as an expression of practical will for fulfilling the nonaggression and guaranteeing peace, the South Korean authorities must take measures to suspend the Team Spirit-92 joint military exercise slated for the new year.

What the country's independent and peaceful reunification urgently demands is to realize reconciliation and unity between the North and South. The North and South agreed to recognize and respect each other's system and not slander and abuse each other. The purpose of this is to concentrate on joint efforts to achieve peaceful reunification by mutual respect and unity under the principle that North-South relations are not relations between two countries, but temporary relations of a nation divided into two.

If the North and South are to reconcile and unite, it is important to do away with the deep-rooted consciousness of confrontation where they are vying for superiority over each other's different ideas and systems. Pursuing confrontation between idea and system is a manifestation of the consciousness of strength to force one's idea and system on someone else. If this kind of consciousness of confrontation is not thrown away, dialogue, visits, and exchanges will only be another form of confrontation in competing for superiority and victory. Then, there is nothing but friction and conflict, and reconciliation and unity cannot be expected.

Essentially, the question of national reunification is not a matter of one side conquering the other or being swallowed by the other or one side overwhelming and prevailing over the other or being overwhelmed and prevailed over by the other. It is a matter of the North and South reconciling and uniting with each other as fellow countrymen sharing the same blood vessel.

When the North and South reconcile with each other and all the people in the country are united with each other, it will be at once a reunification for which we have longed.

As was firmly promised in the agreement, the North and South should discuss and take practical measures to recognize and respect the other side's system, to abstain from interfering in the internal matters of the other side, to stop abusing and slandering the other side, and to discontinue any acts designed to destroy or topple the other side.

At the same time, they should take measures aimed at turning the current state of truce into a state of lasting peace, should cooperate with each other in the international stage instead of being involved in confrontation and competition, and should make joint efforts to promote national dignity and interests.

To promote an independent and peaceful reunification of the country, it is imperative for the North and South to realize cooperation and exchange between them in various areas. Diversified cooperation and exchange between the North and South are significant in connecting the severed national ties, in promoting the country's uniform development, and in providing conditions favorable to national reunification.

For the North and South to realize cooperation and exchange in various areas, the wall of division obstructive to that end should be brought down and all manner of legal and institutional devices that stand in the way of realizing free travel and full-scale openings should be obviated.

By allowing personages and fellow countrymen of all standings in the North and South and abroad to freely travel and contact, the North and South should see to it that not only the persons in authorities but also all the people in the country join in the nationwide effort for national reunification.

At the same time, the North and South should realize economic cooperation and exchange, reconnect transportation and communications networks, and share successes and experiences acquired in various areas, ranging from sciences to technology, education, literature, arts, public health, sports, publications, and press, and take measures for cooperation in these areas, in order to realize uniform and balanced development in the national economy and for promoting the well-being of the entire population.

Important in this regard is for the North and South to push ahead with diversified cooperation and exchange in parallel with the effort to dissipate the political and military confrontation between them.

To insist on giving priority to exchange without the removal of the political and military confrontation is akin to opposing the exchange itself.

The North and South should realize cooperation and exchange in the humanitarian area, such as free travel and reunion between the separated families and relatives; cooperate with each other in such various areas as economy and culture in the international stage; and take measures for making joint inroads into the international arena.

To settle the question of national reunification independently, on the strength of the nation, without interference by any outside forces, is a firm principle and stand which our party and the Republic's Government have consistently maintained.

It is our people who are chiefly responsible for national reunification. National reunification cannot be given to us by somebody else, nor is it a matter that can be settled by somebody else at our request.

Instead of trying to depend on outside force, we should open the door to a boulevard leading to reunification on the strength of the nation's own effort.

Since the agreement adopted and announced at the North-South high-level talks is a joint North-South document of agreement which completely embodies, from start to finish, the independent lines of the nation, it is imperative to maintain the nation's independent stand, not a stand of depending on outside force, when it comes to the implementation of the agreement.

By sincerely implementing the agreement adopted and announced at the fifth round of the North-South high-level talks, the North and South should open a turning point in achieving national reunification before the nineties are out.

Since the North and South have agreed to recognize and respect the other side's system, reunification of the country by way of a confederation based on one people and one state, two systems and two governments will be an extremely natural consequence.

It is important to hammer out a definite way to hasten national reunification through the implementation of the historic agreement. Unless a way to reunify the country is finalized, in practice, the North and South cannot act in concert in advancing toward their common goal, no matter how much they may talk about reunification.

Today, when national reunification is not a distant matter, but a practical task, a political consultative meeting between the authorities and heads of the political parties and public organizations of the North and South should be convened at an early date to hammer out a definite way of reunifying the country.

What kind of stand and attitude are to be adopted toward the implementation of the agreement will be a yardstick to test the desire for peace and will to reunification before the eyes of fellow countrymen and the world.

All the people in the country and the world are now watching to see how the North and South fulfill the duty they bear in the agreement.

The South Korean side should realize the weight of the solemn promise made in the agreement which it signed before the eyes of the entire population and the world and act discreetly and make sincere effort, as a matter of course, to fulfill the duty imposed on it by the agreement.

We will make every sincere effort possible to ensure peace on the Korean peninsula and to hasten reunification during the nineties by sincerely implementing the agreement reached between the North and South—after twists and turns—and by thoroughly implementing our party's reunification lines and policy on the North-South dialogue in a way that lives up to the expectation of the people and world opinion.

Japan Criticized Over North's Nuclear Stand

SK3012051091 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0012 GMT 30 Dec 91

[NODONG SINMUN 30 December commentator's article: "The Japanese Government Authorities Should Not Presume To Intervene in Others' Affairs"]

[Text] According to a report carried by Japan's TOKYO SHIMBUN on 26 December, the Japanese Government authorities on 25 December decided to submit to the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] Administrative Council meeting to be held in Austria in February next year a resolution for the UN Security Council aimed at forcing us to unconditionally sign and implement the nuclear safeguards agreement.

The report said that the Japanese Government authorities adopted this policy to stop our so-called tactic to buy time for developing nuclear weapons by having the IAEA forcibly conduct a nuclear inspection on our country based on a binding UN Security Council decision.

In our Foreign Ministry spokesman's statement issued on 22 December, we made it clear that the government of the republic would sign the safeguards agreement based on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and that we would receive an inspection according to relevant procedures. Reactions have been favorable worldwide, and international attention is focusing on our resolute decision more and more. Our decision is positively appraised in the United States, and even the South Korean authorities say that they have decided to regard it as a positive step, saying that our statement is a positive reaction to their declaration on the nonexistence of nuclear weapons.

News media welcomed it, saying that our signing of the nuclear safeguards agreement will be realized at last. At a time like this, only the Japanese Government intends to throw a wet blanket on and blocking the realization of our positive and sincere efforts toward nuclear inspection. What is the Japanese Government authorities's motive for committing this impertinent, unfriendly act against our country again, just as they have always done? We can only say that the Japanese Government authorities are scheming and up to some very extraordinary trickery because they are absorbed in the antirepublic campaign with unusually excessive impertinence at a time when the issue of nuclear inspection is about to be smoothly resolved through the consistent, just, and fair efforts of the government of our republic.

It is clear to every reasonable person that our signing the nuclear safeguards agreement and its subsequent inspection of our peaceful nuclear energy cannot be resolved by pressure or force. Nevertheless, the Japanese Government authorities mention a forcible inspection by the IAEA pursuant to the so-called decision of the UN Security Council. This means that their true intention is not to resolve the issue of nuclear inspection in our country but to obstruct it to make it unrealizable. The intention of the Japanese authorities is to fulfill their ambition to make Japan a military power and to use this pretext to arm it with nuclear weapons. Otherwise, Japan would not be so presumptuous as to keep itself busy with the issue of a nuclear inspection of our country.

The Japanese authorities say that its own nuclear armament is a realistic demand because of North Korea's nuclear development and the nuclear armament of the entire Korean peninsula, and they are resorting to any means to infuse its country with the need for Japan's nuclear armament in order to create favorable public opinion.

The world knows that Japan is purchasing massive quantities of plutonium, the main raw material in the production of nuclear weapons, from many parts of the world. The Japanese Government recently revealed its attempt to dispatch its Self-Defense Forces overseas. This originates from a wicked and treacherous objective to make Japan a military power and to provide Japan with a reason to possess nuclear weapons as a military power. The Japanese authorities have not discarded the thought of the old colonial imperialist era which brought bitter consequences to them. Pretending to be a political power, they are trying to use various machinations and tricks as an excuse for nuclear armament. However, they should know that this will not work in this bright world.

The world is well aware of the political and moral poverty and meanness of the Japanese Government authorities, who have pretended since the end of World War II to be unaware of the great misfortune and suffering they inflicted, refusing political apology and material compensation for it. While the crimes committed by Japan during World War II remain vivid in people's memory, the Japanese Government is presuming to intervene in other's affairs without trying to do something about what it has done itself. This cannot change the general trend.

The Korean people are not what they used to be. Asia is not what it used to be. The Japanese authorities should be clearly aware of the current trend and the aspirations of the people and act with discretion. It is the consistent position of the government of the republic and the ardent desire of our nation to get the U.S. nuclear weapons withdrawn from South Korea and remove the source of a nuclear war in Korea and to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone. Therefore, now that it has been announced that the nuclear weapons have been completely withdrawn from South Korea, we welcome it as a victory in which our nation's yearning and aspiration have been realized, and we proclaimed that we would sign the safeguards agreement.

Even if Japan does not urge us to implement the safeguards agreement after we sign it, we are fully ready to receive the IAEA inspection. As we have no nuclear weapons, nor do we intend to make them, we have no need to attach any conditions or use tactics to buy time in connection with nuclear inspection. Therefore, the Japanese Government should immediately stop the foolishness of abusing the issue of nuclear inspection in order to achieve their wicked and treacherous political purpose. If the Japanese authorities continue to be hostile toward our country, dreaming of their nuclear armament, under the pretext of our nonexistent development of nuclear weapons, our people will never tolerate it. The Japanese Government authorities should bear this in mind and act with discretion.

Cuban Ministry Hails Inter-Korean Accord

SK2812051591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0500 GMT 28 Dec 91

[Text] Havana December 26 (KCNA)—The Foreign Ministry of Cuba said in a statement on December 25 that Cuba hailed in a happy frame of mind the adoption of "Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, Cooperation and Exchange between the North and the South" at the fifth inter-Korean high-level talks.

The statement noted that the agreement is a fruition of the great efforts to find a way of nationwide agreement for terminating the political and military confrontation on the Korean peninsula, which has lasted for over 40 years and a big stride ahead in the struggle of the Korean people for national reunification.

The Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Cuba considers that a strict implementation of the provisions of the agreement will make a precious contribution to peace and detente in Asia, it added.

Envoy Meets Nicaraguan Party Leader 15 Dec

SK2712035991 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 25 Dec 91

[Text] Virgilio Godoy, general secretary of the Independent Liberal Party of Nicaragua, met with O Song-hwan, DPRK ambassador to Nicaragua, on 15 December.

On this occasion, the ambassador conveyed greetings from the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il to General Secretary Virgilio Godoy. The general secretary appreciated this and asked the ambassador to convey his greetings to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Referring to developing relations between the two countries' parties, the general secretary congratulated the Korean people for the achievements which they have brought in socialist construction under the Workers Party of Korea's wise leadership. He said that Korea's reunification must be achieved based upon the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification, and great national unity. The conversation took place in a friendly atmosphere.

Yi Mong-ho, Delegation Meet Greek Communists

SK2712045391 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 23 Dec 91

[Text] Aleka Papariga, general secretary of the Communist Party of Greece, met with the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] delegation led by Yi Mong-ho, member of the WPK Central Committee and secretary of the Supreme People's Assembly Standing Committee, on 20 December. This delegation was attending the 14th Congress of the Communist Party of Greece.

On this occasion, the delegation's head conveyed greetings from the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il to General Secretary Aleka Papariga. The general secretary appreciated this and asked the delegation's head to convey his warm greetings to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il. The general secretary stressed that the Communist Party of Greece will make positive efforts to develop relations between the Communist Party of Greece and the WPK.

The conversation took place in a friendly atmosphere.

Attend Greek Communist Party Congress

SK2712071191 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 25 Dec 91

[Text] The 14th Congress of the Communist Party of Greece took place on 18-22 December in Athens, the Greek capital. The meeting was attended by the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] delegation led by Yi Mong-ho, member of the WPK Central Committee and secretary of the Supreme People's Assembly Standing Committee, and representatives of political parties of approximately 30 countries. Aleka Papariga, general secretary of the Communist Party of Greece Central Committee, delivered a political report to the meeting. The meeting reelected Aleka Papariga as general secretary of the Communist Party of Greece, and Kharilaos Florakis became this party's honorary chairman.

Return Home 27 Dec

SK3112084791 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 27 Dec 91

[Text] The Workers Party of Korea [WPK] delegation led by Yi Mong-ho, member of the WPK Central Committee and secretary of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly, which participated in the 14th congress of the Greek Communist Party, returned home on 27 December by plane.

Kim Hyong-u, deputy director of a department of the WPK Central Committee, welcomed the delegation at the airport.

Management Modernization Agreement With UNDP

SK3112115091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1026 GMT 31 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 31 (KCNA)—An agreement on assistance in the modernization of management was signed here today between Korea and the United Nations Development Programme [UNDP].

Present at the signing ceremony were Han Tae-hyok, director of the general bureau for cooperation with international organizations of the State External Economy Commission officials concerned and Henning Karcher, resident representative of the UNDP in Korea.

This agreement on computerizing the management of some workshops of the Taean heavy machine complex, the Pyongyang textile combine and the Anju District coal mining complex will contribute to the scientification and modernization of industrial management.

Red Cross Spokesman Comments on Death of Pastor

SK3012052491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0442 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Statement of the spokesman for the Central Committee of the Red Cross Society]

[Text] Pyongyang December 30 (KCNA)—A spokesman for the Central Committee of the Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea issued a statement to the press on December 28 in connection with the fact that some Koreans and pressmen in Americas, instigated by the South Korean authorities, have of late launched again a false propaganda over the death of the Rev. Kim Kye-yong, a Korean resident in the United States, alleging that the cause of his death was "poisoning" and "camouflaged secret burial."

Declaring that the Rev. Kim Kye-yong died in his home town while visiting the homeland, the statement said:

We have on several occasions clarified the background of his death. So we think that there is no need to argue about this matter again now.

However, we are compelled to recall once again the purpose of the home-visiting of the Rev. Kim Kye-yong and the cause of his death, since the South Korean authorities are resorting to a flase propaganda by instigating some Koreans and pressmen in the United States.

He arrived in Pyongyang on August 25 last year at the invitation of the Korean Committee for Aiding Overseas Koreans.

The aim of his home-visiting was to meet his wife and son and other family members, relatives and friends from whom he had been separated for 40 years, have an emotional talk with them, visit the graves of his parents and see at first hand and understand the realities of the homeland.

During his stay in the homeland, he made an emotion-charged reunion with his wife Yi Chin-suk, 70, and son Kim Kwang-hun, 43, and with his relatives.

He was struck with admiration when he witnessed the true looks of the prospering and developing homeland and the happy life of his family and relatives.

On September 1, he visited the graves of his parents in Sinuiju, North Pyongan Province, his home town, and, all of a sudden, he died from heart failure at around 16:30 that day.

His wife and son and other family members and relatives who had witnessed his death on the spot clarified the fact to the home and foreign public.

How could the cause of his death be "poisoning" or "camouflaged secret burial?"

Although the case is as clear as noonday, the South Korean authorities are letting some Koreans and pressmen in the United States say this and that against the DPRK. We cannot help saying that this is entirely improper.

Worse still, in an effort to justify the fabrication, they went the lengths of sending a socalled "petition" to the United Nations and the International Red Cross. This is a grave mockery of the international organisations, which deserves denunciation by unbiased public opinion.

In getting overheated with the false propaganda, the South Korean authorities seek the sinister political purpose of improving their tarnished image at whatever cost by directing elsewhere the attention of the world.

Progressive people of the world who love justice and peace are now lifting up louder voices bitterly denouncing the human rights violation by the South Korean authorities who refuse to return old man Yi In-mo, a war correspondent of the Korean People's Army during the Korean war ignited by the United States early in the 1950s, to the northern half of the country where his family is waiting for him even after he served a prison term of 34 years.

Driven to a corner by the problem of Yi In-mo, the South Korean authorities are resorting to a dastardly and scandalous plot by mobilising some Koreans and stooges in Americas for the purpose of saving face by abusing the case of the death of a conscientious pastor who had taken a road of patriotism.

The South Korean authorities must give up immediately the foolish scheme to get something from this petty trick.

Progressive overseas Koreans organisations and publications must not be misled by the cheap tricks of the South Korean authorities any longer but turn out daringly in the movement to expose their dastardly ruse and for the return of Yi In-mo to his home.

Availing ourselves of this opportunity, we express the hope that the Red Cross organisations of all countries and international organisations will bitterly denounce the inhumane acts of the South Korean authorities in ruthlessly trampling upon even elementary rights of man, resorting to the false propaganda, and more extensively conduct an international rescue movement for an immediate return of old man Yi In-mo to the northern half of Korea where his dear family members and relatives are waiting for him.

Mass Rallies Mark Kim Chong-il's KPA Election

SK3112003891

[Editorial Report] Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean at 2200 GMT on 27 December carries an 11-minute report on a mass rally in North Pyongan Province and a meeting of Ministry of Public Security military personnel (kunmuja), both held to congratulate Kim Chong-il on his election as the Korean People's Army (KPA) supreme commander. The report says that at the North Pyongan Province mass rally, Kim Hak-pong, responsible secretary of North Pyongan provincial party Committee and chairman of the North Pyongan Provincial People's Committee, makes a speech and that Yom Chae-man, chairman of the North Pyongan Province Administrative and Economic Guidance Committee, and Kim Kyong-su, responsible secretary of Sinuiju City party Committee and chairman of the Sinuiju City People's Committee, participate in discussions. The report quotes them as saying that "upholding the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as the Korean People's Army supreme commander is not only a firm quarantee enabling our party, the people, and soldiers of the People's Army to brilliantly complete to the end under the dear leader's outstanding and tested leadership the chuche revolutionary cause pioneered by the great leader, but is also an historic event in strengthening the revolutionary armed forces and achieving the victory of the cause of socialism."

The report says that at the meeting of the Ministry of Public Security military personnel, Chang Song-u, director of the Ministry of Public Security Political Department, Vice Public Security Minister Pak Chongson, and soldiers made speeches. The report quotes them as saying that "the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, the master of ideology and theory, the genius of creation and construction, and the great military strategist, is leading our party and the revolution along the single road of victory."

Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean at 2100 GMT on 29 December carries a four-minute report on mass rallies held across the country to congratulate Kim Chong-il on his election as the KPA supreme commander. The report describes a mass rally of South Hamgyong Province attended by Hyon Chol-kyu, responsible secretary of South Hamgyong provincial party Committee and chairman of the South Hamgyong provincial People's Committee; a mass rally of North Hwanghae Province attended by Choe Mun-son, responsible secretary of North Hwanghae provincial party Committee and chairman of the North Hwanghae Provincial People's Committee; a mass rally of Kangwon Province attended by Yim Hyong-ku, responsible secretary of Kangwon provincial party Committee and chairman of the Kangwon Provincial People's Committee; a mass rally of Kaesong City; a mass rally of Nampo City; and rallies of soldiers of the KPA units to which Comrades (Kang U-chong) and Chong Kyu-hwan belong.

Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean at 0000 GMT on 30 December carries an extensive, recorded report on the mass rally of North Pyongan Province previously reported at 2200 GMT on 27 December. The report includes a six-minute recorded speech by Kim Hak-pong, responsible secretary of North Pyongan provincial party Committee and chairman of the North Pyongan provincial People's Committee, and a five-minute recorded speech by Yom Chae-man, chairman of the Administrative and Economic Guidance Committee of North Pyongan Province.

NODONG SINMUN Views Socialist Education

SK2812061191 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0519 GMT 28 Dec 91

["Highly Important Guideline Which Should be Held Fast to in Thoroughly Implementing Principles of Socialist Education"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 28 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN Friday dedicated a by-lined article to the 20th anniversary of the publication of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's historical work "*On Thorough Implementation of the Principles of Socialist Education*".

The work is a highly important document which indicated the principled questions to be thoroughly applied in educating the rising generations to be reliable heirs to the revolutionary cause of chuche in keeping with the lawful requirement of socialist construction and the practical demand of the developing Korean revolution.

The ideological theories and policies expounded in the work have been thoroughly implemented in education domain so as to bring about a new turn in educational work and register brilliant successes, the article said.

The article quoted the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song as saying:

"It is an indispensable requirement for the building of communism to revolutionize and working-classize the people by intensifying the ideological revolution. Therefore, we must necessarily give first place to the revolutionization and working-classization of the pupils through school education. This must be the basic principle of socialist education."

It went on: The work, first of all, newly indicated the principles of the socialist education from the chuche-based stand to complete, on their basis, the socialist education in a unique way.

It clearly defined it as the basic principle of the socialist education to revolutionize and working-classize youths and children by educating them in a communist way, thus giving scientific answers to the main questions arising in completing the socialist education.

A great success made in the course of implementing the fundamental principles of the socialist education laid down in the work is that the whole country has turned into a land where all people study and through education the growing generations have taken the chuche idea, the revolutionary idea of the working class, as their firm outlook on the world and are being educated to be true able men of communist type with scientific and technological knowledge and healthy bodies.

The work also expounded the concrete tasks for thorough implementation of the principles of the socialist education, so that the educational work might be really conducive to rearing the reliable heirs to the revolutionary cause of chuche.

Our new generation are well aware of the inevitable downfall of capitalism and certain victory of socialism and communism scientifically and theoretically through education and devoting their bodies and mind to the building of socialism. The revolutionary fighting spirit of our young people who are defending the banner of socialism with the working-class stand and the revolutionary principle in face of the vicious moves of the imperialists is based on their faith in the sure victory of the socialist cause.

Our new generation are bitterly hating imperialism and exploiting system with a high spirit of anti-imperialist struggle and class consciousness befitting the generation living in the era of class struggle, the era of the revolution.

All the achievements in education are a precious fruit of the wise leadership of our party which has led the efforts to properly apply the idea, theories and policies elucidated in the work.

Party Leadership 'Sure Guarantee' for Prosperity

SK2812111691 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1024 GMT 28 Dec 91

["WPK's Leadership Is Sure Guarantee for Development and Prosperity of the Nation"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 28 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comes out with an article titled "Our Party's Leadership Is Sure Guarantee for Development and Prosperity of the Nation."

Noting that today our people cherish great national pride because they have the wise leadership of our party, the article says:

A heyday of great development and prosperity unprecedented in the long history of our nation has been ushered in our country.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has said:

"Today we live in an era of unprecedented prosperity in the history of our country and our nation.

Our country's economy is growing steadily, science and technology is rapidly developing and our national culture is blossoming gloriously."

Our people under the leadership of the party are now registering uninterrupted progress and prosperity in the political, economic and cultural and all other fields of the revolution and construction. Indeed, there has never been an example to equal that of our people who brought about a fundamental change in all realms of social life in only tens of years. Herein lies the characteristic feature and might of the national prosperity our people have achieved.

Under the wise leadership of our party our people are, above all, boundlessly exalting their dignity and honor as an independent nation with the high spirit of national independence.

As they have high pride and honor in that our leader and our party are the greatest and the chuche idea and our socialist system are best, our people have become a great nation with the highest sense of independence. It is a noble national spirit and mettle of our people to live and struggle their own way under the leadership of their leader, and their party, firmly upholding the spirit of national independence under all circumstances.

All people bring into full bloom their creative wisdom and talent with a high sense of national pride and honour of living and making revolution under the more superior socialist system. This is the proud reality of our society. This eloquently proves to what height the national dignity and position are elevated when a socialist system centred on the masses is consolidated under an illustrious leader.

Our people under the wise guidance of our party have achieved an epoch-making progress and prosperity in the development of the economy and culture.

Our people have laid a powerful material and technical foundation for the prosperity of the nation in this land by firmly adhering to the line of building an independent national economy.

Despite the economic pressure from the U.S.-led imperialists, our people are building the economy at a high speed and constantly erecting monumental edifices of the times for a greater prosperity of the nation.

With the successful implementation of our party's chuche-oriented line of building socialist national culture, socialist culture, morality and way of life suitable to the emotion of our nation and explicit in the working-class line have been created in our country.

Under the wise guidance of our party, a great change has taken place in the political and ideological traits and unity of our nation.

Our people have achieved the most solid unity ever in history in ideology and purpose. The party, the guiding force of the revolution, and the people, the makers of the revolution, are linked by unbreakable bonds and share weal and woe. The entire people think and act in one mind and purpose with one ideology.

Thanks to this great singlehearted unity of the entire people, there is nothing impossible to do and no fortress unconquerable in our country.

The excellent ability and great traits of leadership of our party are the basic source for our nation to greet and glorify a great heyday of prosperity and development without precedent in history.

What is important in our party's leadership in achieving national prosperity and development is that it strictly subordinates everything to defending the political independence of our nation and sees that everything is solved our own way in reliance on the internal strength of our nation.

The article stresses:

In the initial period of the building of a new society, our people confidently started a historic march toward national prosperity, seeing a bright future of the nation in the greatness of the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song. It is scores of years since then, but this revolutionary cause is constantly advancing toward a higher stage thanks to our party. This is the highest honour and pride of our nation.

KCNA Reviews 31 Dec Pyongyang Press

SK3112054891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0423 GMT 31 Dec 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang December 31 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a message of greetings sent by President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Jerry John Rawlings, head of state and chairman of the Provisional National Defence Council of the Republic of Ghana, on the tenth anniversary of the December 31 revolution in Ghana.

Appearing in papers is news that Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, received floral baskets and congratulatory letters from Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the foreign diplomatic corps and military attaches corps in Pyongyang on the new year, 1992.

It is reported in papers that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA], received floral baskets and congratulatory letters from Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, the foreign diplomatic corps and military attaches corps in Pyongyang on the new year, 1992.

Given in the press are accounts of mass meetings and rallies held in different parts of the country to hail the election of Comrade Kim Chong-il as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army. Foreign publications gave wide publicity to this news, says the press.

Printed in NODONG SINMUN is a poem congratulating Comrade Kim Chong-il upon his election as KPA supreme commander.

The paper gives accounts of meetings of scientists and technicians to thoroughly implement the highly important tasks set forth in "Let Us Effect a New Turn in Scientific and Technological Development", the letter sent by Comrade Kim Chong-il to the participants in the national meeting of scientists.

Conveyed in the paper are foreign public voices on the revolutionary slogans which Comrade Kim Chong-il has put forward, reflecting the purpose and desire of the people.

It informs the readers that the Chinese PEOPLE'S DAILY gave an account of the 19th plenary meeting of the 6th Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Thanks of the WPK Central Committee was conveyed to the employees of the Hamhung Furniture Producers' Cooperative who had contributed to the development of science and technology by producing special packings, says the press.

Papers carry a political essay which says that our people have dynamically advanced along the road of socialism with confidence and optimism this year, surmounting all tests of history.

According to NODONG SINMUN, the Korean documentary film studio released the documentary films "Pioneers of the 'Let-all-family-operate Machines Movement'" and "Second Seminar on 'Peace in Asia and Role of Women'".

NODONG SINMUN informs the readers that the president of the State of Palestine met the DPRK ambassador.

Papers come out with articles stressing the need to honestly implement the inter-Korean agreement adopted at the fifth inter-Korean high-level talks and favorable international reaction to the agreement.

South Korean news columns of the press include a report that popular songs of the northern half of Korea are being disseminated on South Korean campuses.

NODONG SINMUN runs articles on South Korean people's struggle this year for the release of visitors to the North and on the serious economic crisis of South Korea.

Echoed in the paper are voices of foreigners praising the Korean people who are successfully building socialism under the Red Banner of the Three Revolutions.

Comrade Fidel Castro declared that the Cuban people would never yield nor give up the struggle and the economic and financial committee of the 46th U.N. General Assembly called for refraining from taking forcible economic measures against the developing countries, says the press.

It is reported in NODONG SINMUN that the Vietnamese paper QUAN DOI NHAN DAN demanded the withdrawal of the U.S. troops from South Korea and grain production increased in Vietnam.

Papers dedicate articles to the anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolution and the day of the start of the Palestinian revolution.

Reviewing the international situation this month, NODONG SINMUN says the moves of the imperialists and reactionaries to turn back the trend of independence and peace have been intensified.

South Korea

Agreement With North on Denuclearization of Korea

SK3112033891 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0200 GMT 31 Dec 91

[Text] It has been learned that at the contact between North and South delegates this morning at Tongil House in the North side's area of Panmunjom to discuss the nuclear issue, the North and the South reached a final agreement on the draft of a joint declaration on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

The joint declaration's major contents are a preamble and six articles that include a ban on testing, producing, possessing, stockpiling, deploying, or using nuclear weapons; the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes; a ban on the possession of nuclear reprocessing facilities and uranium concentration facilities; simultaneous nuclear inspection of the North and the South; and the formation of a North-South nuclear control joint committee within one month after the joint declaration has gone into effect.

It seems that the joint declaration will go into effect after both sides of the North and the South take respective necessary procedures and after they exchange copies of the document at the sixth round of North-South high-level talks to be held in Pyongyang, 18 February next year.

At today's contact, both sides of the North and the South reportedly agreed that in connection with the issue of North Korea's signing of the nuclear safeguards accord—which has been a controversial issue—North Korea's acceptance of a nuclear inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency has been deleted from the draft of the joint declaration and that, instead, North Korea will announce a timetable on the signature, ratification, and actualization of the accord.

Along with this, both sides reportedly agreed on deleting from the joint declaration the North side's inclusion of a ban on simulated nuclear attack exercises that the North side had insisted on including in the joint declaration, being conscious of the Team Spirit exercise and, instead, agreed that the South side will announce the suspension of its Team Spirit-92 exercise at an early date.

As for the issue of a simultaneous inspection of nuclear-related facilities on North and South Korea, both sides reportedly agreed to withdraw the South side's proposal for conducting a pilot inspection and, instead, made an agreement to conduct a simultaneous inspection between them.

YONHAP Reports on Agreement

SK3112095291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0941 GMT 31 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 31 (YONHAP)—South and North Korea reached an agreement Tuesday on a nuclear-free Korean peninsula that will be signed by prime ministers and put into effect on Feb. 19.

The six-article agreement says the two Koreas will not possess or manufacture nuclear weapons and will not own nuclear reprocessing and uranium enrichment facilities.

South Korea dropped its original demand that North Korea immediately sign, ratify and implement a safeguards accord with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and North Korea, in turn, backed off from its demand that South Korea not hold any military exercise simulating nuclear war.

The agreemeent also calls for simultaneous pilot inspection on each other's civilian and military installations designated by other side.

Details for the inspection will be settled by a joint nuclear committee which will be established within one month after the agreement goes into effect.

Seoul and Pyongyang will hold two more contacts at the truce village of Panmunmjom on Jan. 14 and Jan. 21 and exchange the agreement signed by prime ministers of the two sides.

The agreement says both South and North Korea can revise and add to the agreement after bilateral consultations.

The marathon talks began from 10 A.M. and went through sevral recesses before the agreement was finally initialed close to 6 P.M.

Key articles say the two Koreas will not test, manufacture, produce, accept, possess, store, deploy or use nuclear weapons, will not possess facilities for reprocessing spent fuel and enrich uranium, and will use nuclear energy solely for peaceful purposes.

The agreement was apparently compromised with Seoul deleting a clause demanding that North Korea conclude a nuclear safeguards accord with the IAEA and open its nuclear facilities to outside inspection.

The demand was aimed at getting North Korea to promise specific timetables for signing, ratifying and implementing the safeguards accord.

North Korea answered by dropping its demand that the two Koreas not hold any military exercise simulating nuclear aggression. This demand was aimed at getting Seoul to cancel its annual joint military maneuver with the United States, "Team Spirit."

South Korea had said it was willing to scrap next year's Team Spirit plan if North Korea provided "the right conditions," meaning its signing of a safeguards accord.

The compromise in these two points are creating speculations here that North Korea might have specifically indicated when it would accept the IAEA accord in exchange for South Korea's promise to abort Team Spirit.

The two sides made a last-minute breakthrough on simultaneous pilot inspection Seoul had insisted on by deciding to let the South-North Korean joint nuclear committee discuss details.

Another hitch was deciding when to put the agreement into force, negotiation sources said.

The North originally demanded that the two sides have more time to complete domestic procedures needed for its effectuation but the South countered that it be put into effect upon signing by the prime ministers of the two sides.

The two sides later compromised and took a middle course, agreeing to put it into effect in the first-day session of the sixth prime ministers' talks slated to open on Feb. 19 in Pyongyang.

The two sides agreed to exchange the agreement signed by the prime minister of either side in two rounds of contact at Panmunjom on Jan. 14 and Jan. 21.

The agreement left room for further negotiation by adding a clause allowing revisions and additions to the agreement through bilateral consultation.

Agreement Preamble, Articles Detailed

SK3112112491 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 1000 GMT 31 Dec 91

[Text] The North and the South finally reached agreement on a joint declaration for turning the Korean peninsula into a nuclear- free zone. They decided to validate the declaration at the sixth round of the high-level talks to be held on 19 [as heard] February in 1992. Reporter Ko Tae-yong reports:

[Begin recording] The third round of North-South delegates' contacts on the nuclear issue lasted until 1800 this evening in Tongilgak, on North's side in Panmunjom. At the contact, they agreed to accept the draft of a joint declaration on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, which has a preamble and six articles.

The North and the South agreed that prime ministers of both sides should sign the joint declaration on 20 January in 1992. They decided to validate the declaration at the sixth round of the North-South high-level talks to be held on 19 February 1992.

As a preparatory measure to validate the joint declaration, both sides agreed to exchange the copy of the joint declaration, signed by prime ministers of the both sides, in Panmunjom on two occasions—14 and 20 January 1992.

The preamble of the joint declaration on denuclearization, upon which the North and the South agreed, stipulates that the North and the South should apply the six articles to remove the danger of a nuclear war by turning the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone; to create conditions and an atmosphere favorable for achieving peaceful reunification of the country; and to contribute to peace in Asia and the rest of the world.

Article 1 stipulates that the North and the South should not test, manufacture, produce, introduce [chopsu], possess, stockpile, deploy, or use nuclear weapons; Article 2 stipulates the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes; Article 3 stipulates the abrogation of nuclear reprocessing facilities and uranium enrichment facilities; Article 4 stipulates that the targets, selected and agreed by both sides, should be inspected through methods and procedures regulated by a North-South nuclear control joint committee that will verify the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. The joint declaration also stipulates that the North and the South should form and operate a North-South nuclear control joint committee within one month after the joint declaration has gone into effect. In addition, the joint declaration stipulates that it will become effective after both sides take the necessary procedures and after they exchange copies of the document.

The North and the South decided that the joint declaration can be revised and supplemented if both sides agree. [end recording]

Agreement Fills 'Crucial Vacuum'

SK3112124391 Seoul YONHAP in English 1157 GMT 31 Dec 91

["News Analysis" by Yi Tong-min]

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 31 (OANA-YONHAP)—South and North Korea recorded another milestone in their relations Tuesday by initialing an agreement for a non-nuclear Korean peninsula.

The agreement fills the crucial vacuum in the inter-Korean accord on reconciliation, non-aggression and exchanges and cooperation signed Dec. 13 by providing a way to solve the decades-old nuclear problem.

The agreement, named a joint delcaration for a non-nuclear Korean peninsula, is a product of three working-level negotiations that began just last Thursday.

Seoul and Pyongyang moved swiftly to make major concessions, urged to make concrete progress before the year is out. After nearly eight hours of marathon talks Tuesday, the two sides produced a six-article agreement with a preamble and a three-point joint statement.

The agreement will be signed by prime ministers of two Koreas and exchanged at two separate contacts at Panmunjom on Jan. 14 and Jan. 21. It will go into effect on Feb. 19 after Seoul and Pyongyang each take necessary internal procedures and the prime ministers meet for the sixth round of talks in the North Korean capital.

The nuclear accord could not be timelier. It comes just before U.S. President George Bush, a major player in inter-Korean nuclear problem, visits Seoul Jan. 5-7.

Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa also comes to Seoul Jan. 16-18 as Tokyo moves to improve relations with Pyongyang when inter- Korean nuclear negotiations make significant progress.

There were criticism from Washington that the Dec. 13 agreement evaded the most urgent issue by passing the nuclear question aside.

The contents of Tuesday's agreement comes very close to pacifying the criticism.

North Korea has agreed to abandon nuclear reprocessing and uranium enrichment facilities, a declaration that it will not produce nuclear weapons.

Fears ran globally that North Korea was just months away from completing its nuclear reprocessing facilities, and primary emphasis was on getting Pyongyang to publicly renounce such nuclear capability.

The North agreed to simultaneous pilot inspection on civilian and military installations which will give the South the chance to verify absence of nuclear weapons and production capabilities in the North. It will now be up to a joint nuclear committee to be formed within one month after the agreement goes into effect, to settle the details and actualize the verification system.

South Korea compromised by repealing an article in its original draft declaration that the North must conclude a nuclear safeguards accord with the International Atomic Energy Agency in the immediate future.

In response, an article prohibiting any military exercise simultating nuclear war was withdrawn by the North Korean side.

The compromise suggests that North Korea is most likely to conclude a nuclear safeguards accord before the next prime ministers' talks and Seoul is expected to respond by announcing cancellation of Team Spirit, a joint annual military exercise with the United States, for 1992.

The nuclear accord is certain to affect Seoul-Pyongyang relations in other areas. South Korean officials have said the inter-Korean agreement on reconciliation, non-aggression and exchanges and cooperation will not be put into effect without successful resolution of the nuclear problem.

Tuesday's accord clears this stumbling block, passing the South- North relations from negotiation to implementation stage.

Delegate Yi Tong-pok Describes Talks

SK3112142091 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 31 Dec 91

[Interview with Yi Tong-pok, ROK delegate to the North-South delegates' contact, by KBS anchorman Pak Tae-sok—live]

[Text] [Pak Tae-sok] How are you? We appreciate your efforts. I think the North-South agreement is more meaningful because it was reached the last day of the year. What is the background for both sides to reach the agreement quickly?

[Yi Tong-pok] We have made efforts to resolve the issue of a joint declaration on denclearization this year. As you know, the copies of the North-South Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, and Cooperation and Exchanges, which was adopted and signed at the fifth round of the North-South high-level talks, will be exchanged at the sixth round of full dress talks to be held in Pyongyang starting 18 February 1992. The North-South agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, and cooperation and exchanges will go into effect then.

However, many people doubted that the agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, and cooperation and exchanges could really go into effect while the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula was not resolved. Therefore, our position was that this issue should be resolved without fail before the sixth round of the talks is held next year.

In the meantime, there can be much guessing about why the North side followed our side's intention. However, the one we can see is that the North side, considering the talks to normalize diplomatic relations with Japan and the council of the International Atomic Energy Agency which will be held in Vienna 25-26 February 1992, agreed to resolve the issue this year. I think that is the reason for today's events.

[Pak] What are the concrete methods for a nuclear inspection to verify denuclearization?

[Yi] All targets, which the other side selects and both sides agree upon, including military and civilian facilities, materials, places, are expected to be inspected. A nuclear inspection of such targets will be conducted according to procedures and methods of a North-South nuclear control joint committee which will be formed in the future.

[Pak] Do you think that nuclear threat or nuclear fear against our nation by our nation will be removed?

[Yi] The joint declaration on denuclearization contains very important principles in Articles 1, 2, and 3. In Article 1, eight principles on denuclearization are stipulated. In Article 2, use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes is stipulated. Article 3—the most important one—stipulates that the North and the South should not possess reprocessing and enrichment facilities. If the three articles are abided by, the Korean peninsula and our 70 million people will be completely liberated from nuclear threat. Therefore, if we faithfully put into practice the contents regulated in Articles 4 and 5, our nation and our land will be liberated from nuclear threat.

[Pak] We find that the issue of the Team Spirit exercise is not in the joint declaration. What will become of this ROK-U.S. joint military exercise?

[Yi] The government has maintained the following position: If the North Korean side agrees to give up the nuclear reprocessing and enriched uranium facilities, we are prepared to consider halting the Team Spirit exercise.

The North side has agreed to this in the joint denuclearization declaration. However, we believe there is a problem of credibility in view of the North's behavior so far in implementing its obligations with the International Atomic Energy Agency and the international treaty. Therefore, we connected this issue with the issue of the Team Spirit exercise, and the North and the South have engaged in much dialogue on this. As a result of such dialogue, we have reached a stage where we think considerable understanding has been achieved. Therefore, we expect that the North and South Korean authorities will say something about this issue soon.

[Pak] The North and the South have agreed on the joint denuclearization declaration by the adoption of the North-South agreement. What is your view of the prospects for North-South relations next year?

[Yi] As you are aware, North-South relations after the validation of the North-South agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, and exchange and cooperation will bring peaceful coexistence for the first time in 46 years of national division. Based on this agreement, many institutions will spring up between the North and the South next year. Many exchanges and much cooperation will be made through these institutions. There will be what we can call relations between North and South Korea. These relations are very precious. I hope the North and the South will join their wisdom to develop the relations well, and I expect the good relations will bring forth various tangible results in the latter half of next year.

Secret South-North Contacts Under Way for Summit

SK3112013191 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 31 Dec 91 p 1

[Text] It was learned on 30 December that the South and North are holding secret contacts between high-level government officials of the two sides to work out an agreement for summit talks between President No Tae-u and North Korean President Kim Il-song.

Contacts as such between the South and North are reported to have begun after the North side informed our side of the need for summit talks and sounded out our side's opinion on them through various channels, raising the possibility that the South-North summit talks may materialize at an earlier date than expected.

The government has not ruled out the possibility of making public "a major announcement" sooner or later if the contacts lead to an affirmative result.

A high-ranking North Korean official is reported to have made a secret visit to Seoul in early December, shortly before the fifth round of the South-North high-level talks, to discuss related matters, and stayed a short while. However, it has not been confirmed whether a high-ranking government official from our side has made a secret visit to Pyongyang on the basis of the principle of reciprocity.

The South and North are reported to have conducted behind-the-scenes negotiations over such pending issues

Kim Yong-sam, executive chairman of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP]

We are confronted with a historic moment politically, economically and socially amid a fast changing international situation.

If we unite all our might and wisdom at this turning point, we will be able to join advanced nations with this year as the crossroads.

We should lay down the political road to smoothly conduct the upcoming general, local and presidential elections.

Economic recovery comes before all in the new year.

We must be more active in pursuing inter-Korean relations to lay firmer foundation for peaceful unification. The DLP will put utmost efforts for democratization, economic recovery and national unification with the help of the people.

Kim Tae-chung, co-chairman of the Democratic Party

For the first time in history, we will be conducting presidential, general and local elections all in one year. We have an opportunity to establish a civilian, democratic government through these elections.

The coming general elections will be the most important in deciding the future of the country.

The Democratic Party will not only win the elections but mobilize all efforts in achieving four goals—political stability, price stability, economic recovery, and improvement of the quality of life for the people.

1992 will decide whether the present day disappointment will continue or whether democratic reform will emerge. It is not too much to say that the outcome depends on whether the people choose the democratic liberal party or the democratic party.

Yi Ki-taek, co-chairman of the Democratic Party

No other year carries more meaning, and no other year has so much of the people's fate in its hands than 1992.

If the 1980s saw the budding of democracy during the fight against authoritarianism and military dictatorship, the 1990s is the time to complete the democratic reforms and prepare for reunification. Whether we can achieve these goals depends on this year's elections.

All the pain from 47 years of national division must come to an end in the new year. For this, there must be fundamental reforms in our politics. We must furthermore secure the right path for clean, fair and uncorrupt elections.

Chief Justice's, Economic Minister's Speeches

SK3112082391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0556 GMT 31 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 1 (YONHAP)—Following are summaries of the new year's addresses given by Chief Justice Kim Tok-chu and Deputy Prime Minister-Economic Planning Minister Choe Kak-kyu:

Chief Justice Kim:

In the world today, ideological confrontation between East and West is gone but all nations pursue their economic interests. All people should do their best to build national strength, promote reconciliation and realize unification as soon as possible so no more national strength is wasted on confrontation.

This year, various elections, including those for the National Assembly and president, are scheduled. All the people should make efforts to establish an atmosphere of fair elections.

Every citizen needs to have a deep understanding and firm conviction of the rule of law, and the judiciary must do its best to establish the rule of law.

Deputy Premier Choe:

This year is the first year of the seventh five-year social and economic development plan. The government will try to substantialize the economy and provide a foundation for stability for advancement in the middle of the 1990s and for reunification.

The government will focus economic policy on strengthening the international competitiveness of industry, easing price instability and improving the international balance situation.

Entrepreneurs should do their utmost to renovate management and develop technology, workers must cooperate for an "appropriate" pay hike and ordinary people must refrain from excessive consumption.

Government Secures Papers on 1984 Northrop Deal

SK3012030691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0112 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 30 (YONHAP)—The Justice Ministry has secured bank and other financial documents of the late Presidential Security Chief Pak Chong-kyu who had allegedly worked as a lobbyist for Northrop Corp. of the United States, Ministry sources said monday.

The Ministry took the action at the request of the U.S. Department of Justice, the sources said.

The Ministry, however, has not decided whether it will hand the papers over to the U.S. Government since South Korea is under no legal obligation to do so in the absence of an extradition agreement with the United States, the sources said.

Pak has allegedly received 6.25 million U.S. dollars from Northrop as part of the U.S. aircraft maker's unsuccessful bid to sell F-20 fighter bombers to South Korea in 1984. Pak died in 1985 and Northrop has been trying to get the money back ever since.

On Dec. 4, however, the Seoul District Court ruled that Northrop could not recover the money because it spent it in a lobbying effort for the sale of its military aircraft and not as an investment in a joint venture.

The court ruled in favor of the defendants in a civil suit brought by Northrop in December 1987 against Pak's wife, Yi Chong-won and 12 other shareholders of Asia Munhwa Travel Co.

According to the suit, Northrop handed 6.25 million dollars to Asia Munhwa Travel through the presidential security chief in 1984 after Northrop agreed to build a hotel in Seoul with Asia Munhwa Travel in an "offsetting trade" linked to its sale of the F-20 fighter aircraft. Pak died after naming his wife as the inheritor of his property.

Under the agreement, Northrop's subsidiary, Northrop Venture Systems Co., invested 6.25 million dollars and acquired 50 percent interests in Asia Munhwa Travel.

Northrop claimed its subsidiary deposited the money through the Hong Kong branch of the Korea Foreign Exchange Bank on Aug. 8, 1984, but its joint venture partner failed to get government approval for the hotel and thus breached their contract.

The defendants, however, claimed that Northrop in fact spent the money for its lobbying efforts to sell F-20 fighter aircraft to South Korea. Therefore, Asia Munhwa Travel was under no obligation to repay the money as it wasn't intended for the hotel, they said.

The judge agreed and said the money should be regarded as a lobbying fund for the sale of the aircraft.

Residents Protest Over Proposed Nuclear Dump

Attack Power Substation

SK3112032191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0123 GMT 31 Dec 91

[Text] Ulchin, South Korea, Dec. 31 (YONHAP)—About 50 residents of this East Sea coastal town, protesting against a possible government plan to build a nuclear waste dump, attacked an electric power substation with firebombs, knocking out power supplies to 13,000 households for more than four hours Monday night.

The attack occurred at around 9:15 P.M., Monday when the protesters sneaked out of the Ulchin cathedral where some 200 citizens were staging a sit-in strike and tossed 30 firebombs at the nearby power substation, setting the station house afire.

The fire was put under control in 25 minutes and power was restored at 1:24 A.M. Tuesday, police said.

Police, meanwhile, surrounded the cathedral late Monday night and arrested a man identified as Kim Chin-kuk, 31, and 23 others who, they believe, are the leaders of the sit-in protest.

Their arrests brought to 40 the number of people being detained by police in the wake of protests by thousands of residents of six counties that have been selected as candidates for nuclear waste dump sites.

Earlier, four residents and two riot policemen were injured when some 300 protesters, wielding sticks and hurling rocks, clashed with riot police Monday afternoon. The clash occurred when the protesters, coming out of the cathedral and tried to march to the county office in downtown Ulchin, North Kyongsang Province.

On Friday, 100 resident of nearby Yongil clashed with police after they stormed into the county chief's office and staged a three-hour sit-in to force the government to drop its nuclear waste dump plan.

The Ministry of Science and Technology said it has received voluntary applications from scores of counties that offered to be the site for the nuclear waste processing. The nuclear environment management center announced Friday that six candidate counties have been picked as possible sites.

But in addition to Ulchin, citizens of Changhung, South Cholla Province: Kosong, Kangwon Province: and Taean, South Chungchong also held protest rallies in recent days. [punctuation as received]

Government Clarifies Site Selection

SK3112083791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0450 GMT 31 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 31 (YONHAP)—Science and Technology Minister Kim Chin-hyun said Tuesday the government would not select nuclear waste dump sites without consulting with local residents.

Kim's assurance came in the wake of a series of violent anti-nuclear demonstrations Monday night by residents in the East Sea coastal town of Ulchin and elsewhere recently.

The government will proceed in its selection of the sites for nuclear waste processing plants after thorough discussions with local residents in a democratic manner, taking into consideration, among other things, local development programs, Kim said.

He said the recent announcement by the nuclear environment management center naming six possible candidates for the nuclear waste dump sites was a result of an eight month-long study conducted by Seoul National University and other research institutes.

The center is now undertaking an overall study on the basis of the report submitted by the research groups, Kim said.

The government will then make its final decision on the sites after studying the center's evaluation and consulting with local residents and organizations, Kim added.

EPB Reports Consumer Prices Rise 9.5 Percent

SK3012030491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0050 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 30 (YONHAP)—South Korea's consumer prices, led by private service charges, soared to a decade-high of 9.5 percent this year but were kept within the government-targeted single-digit increase rate, according to the Economic Planning Board (EPB).

The hike rate was above last year's 9.4 percent and sharpest since 1981, when it registered 13.8 percent.

Consumer prices in December stayed at last month's level while wholesale prices climbed 0.6 percent, said the Board Monday in a price trends for December. Wholesale prices rose 3.1 percent for all of 1991.

Consumer prices increase this year were led by private service charges (18.3 percent), agricultural, livestock and fishery products (11.8 percent), housing rent (9.5 percent), public charges (8.7 percent), oil and briquet (5.7 percent) and manufacturing goods (5.3 percent), it said.

Agricultural, livestock and fishery products contributed 3.45 percent to the 9.5 percent-increase, compared with 1.74 percent for public charges, 1.59 percent for private service charges, 1.39 percent for manufacturing goods and 1.15 percent for housing rent.

An EPB official expressed concern that the public charges will continue to put pressure on prices next year with hikes in utilities charges, college admission fees and high school tuitions.

The government plans to hold public charges increase at 5 percent in 1992 and prevent a radical jump in the specific time of the year, when four nationwide elections are scheduled, he said.

Burma

Junta Rejects Attack Claims on Bangladesh Outpost

BK3112145291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1114 GMT 31 Dec 91

[Text] Rangoon, Dec 31 (AFP)—The Burmese junta has rejected claims by Dhaka that Burmese troops raided a border post near Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh, this month, killing four people, officials here said Tuesday.

They quoted Colonel Than Tun, deputy head of military intelligence, as saying the December 21 incident took place inside Burmese territory.

In a brief meeting with Bangladeshi defence attache Brigadier [title as received] Abu Bakr last week, Than Tun said Burmese troops were in hot pursuit of rebels at the time of the clash.

Officials from the two countries were due to discuss the incident at Maung Daw, 20 kilometers (12 miles) inside Burma on Tuesday, but no details of the talks were immediately available.

No mention of the clash or proposed talks has been made in the state-controlled press here but government sources said Burma did not consider the incident as an insoluble problem.

Bangladesh accuses Burmese frontier guards of raiding a Bangladesh Rifles outpost near Cox's Bazaar on December 21, killing four people including a guard, and looting arms.

Status of 5 Elected MP's Revoked by Commission

BK2712153091 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 27 Dec 91

[Announcement No. 991, issued by the Multiparty Democratic General Elections Commission of the Union of Myanmar [Burma], dated 27 December 1991]

[Text] Subject: Nullification of the status as People's Assembly Representatives of five persons who infringed Section 11-J of the People's Assembly Election Law.

1. The following persons, one from the Democratic Organization for Kayan National Unity mentioned in 1.A. and four from the National League for Democracy [NLD] mentioned in 1.B, 1.C, 1.D, 1.E, were elected as People's Assembly Representatives during the multiparty democratic general election on 27 May 1990. They have been found to be guilty of the offenses listed below:
A. U R. P. Thaung, LKW005247, Thandaung Township constituency-1, Karen State—Section 5-J of the 1950 Emergency Provisions Act.
B. U Ohn Kyaing, MMN040500, Mandalay Southeast Township constituency-2, Mandalay Division—Section 5-A, 5-B, and 5-J of the 1950 Emergency Provisions Act.
C. U Zaw Myint Maung, WMAY279075, Amarapura Township constituency-1, Mandalay Division—Section 122-1 of the Penal Code.
D. U Tin Aung Aung, 9/MANAMA-NAING 048642, Mandalay Northwest Township constituency-1, Mandalay Division—Section 122-1 of the Penal Code.
E. Dr. Zaw Myint, AA 089495, Henzada Township constituency-1, Irrawaddy Division—Section 122-1 of the Penal Code.

2. Hence, they are found to have infringed Section 11-J of the People's Assembly Election Law and they no longer have the right to continue to be People's Assembly Representatives and their status as elected representatives has been nullified.

3. It is also hereby announced that in accordance with Section 80-B of the People's Assembly Election Law, the two persons mentioned in 1.A and 1.B shall no longer have the right to run for elections in the next 10 years with effect from today, and in accordance with Section 80-A of the People's Assembly Election Law, the three persons mentioned in 1.C, 1.D, and 1.E shall no longer have the right to run for elections in the future.

By the authority vested in me,
Signed: Aye Maung, secretary

Commission Revokes Status of More Elected MP's

BK3012143891 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Announcement No. 992 issued by the Multiparty Democratic General Elections Commission of the Union of Myanmar [Burma], dated 30 December 1991]

[Text] Subject: Nullification of the status as People's Assembly representatives of five persons who infringed on Section 11-J of the People's Assembly Election Law.

1. The following persons from the National League for Democracy [NLD], who were elected as People's Assembly representatives during the multiparty democratic general election on 27 May 1990, have been found to be guilty of the offenses listed below:
A. U Tun Aung, LWE106813, Yedashe Township constituency-2, Pegu Division—Section 122-1 of the Penal Code.
B. U Ye Htut, YAGAUK/DAUNA-NAING 006350, Daik-U Township constituency-1, Pegu Division—Section 122-1 of the Penal Code.
C. U Ba Bwa, 9/AHMAYA-NAING 006343, Amarapura Township constituency-2, Mandalay Division—Section 122-1 of the Penal Code.
D. U Nai Nai, 12/PAZATA-NAING 022673, Pazundaung Township constituency, Yangon [Rangoon] Division—Section 122-1 of the Penal Code.

2. Hence, they are found to have infringed upon Section 11-J of the People's Assembly Election Law and they no longer have the right to continue to be People's Assembly representatives and their status as elected representatives has been nullified.

3. It is also hereby announced that in accordance with Section 80-A of the People's Assembly Election Law, the four persons mentioned in Section 1 shall no longer have the right to run for elections in the future.

By the authority vested in me,
Signed: Aye Maung, secretary

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Brunei

Detained Outlawed Party Member Released

BK3012095491 Kuala Belait THE BORNEO BULLETIN in English 13 Nov 91 p 1

[Text] His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di Pertuan of Negara [state ruler] Brunei Darussalam yesterday consented to the release of Awang Omar bin Tamin, one of the members of the outlawed Partai Rakyat Brunei [Brunei People's Party].

Awang Omar bin Tamin ran away while in detention and had sought refuge in a foreign country. He later returned to Brunei after relenting and realising his wrong doings.

The release of Awang Omar was made after he voluntarily took an oath of loyalty to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di Pertuan of Negara Brunei Darussalam and His Majesty's government. Awang Omar also vowed to abide by the law and order of the country.

Awang Omar aged 62, took the oath before the Brunei Muara district kadi [Islamic religious judge], Awang Haji Jaafar bin Haji Maidin. The ceremony took place at the detainee rehabilitation training centre in Jalan Berakas.

Present at the ceremony was the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Home Affairs, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Omar bin Haji Serudin.

Malaysia

Minister Wants Review of Thai Border Agreement

BK3112095691 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 31 Dec 91

[Text] Malaysia will seek a review of the 1922 agreement between Britain and Thailand, which allows Thai armed personnel to cross over into Malaysian territory for antismuggling operations. Deputy Foreign Minister Datuk Dr. Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan said the matter will be discussed at meetings of the Malaysia-Thai Joint Commission and the Malaysia-Thai Joint Border Committee next year.

He told newsmen in Kuala Lumpur that the Thai authorities had used the agreement as an excuse for intrusion by armed Thai uniformed men at Padang Besar on antismuggling operations on 15, 16, 20, and 22 December this year. The 1922 agreement allows Thai armed personnel to cross over into Malaysian territory only at night and also allows authorities of both countries to use the railway stations on both sides of the border for antismuggling operations.

He said the Thai authorities, however, should have contacted their Malaysian counterparts before entering Malaysia on their antismuggling operations. Datuk Dr. Abdullah said the 1922 agreement was no longer suitable for the present time. Moreover, it was not made by Malaysia. He was confident that the close relations between Malaysia and Thailand would enable the problem to be solved amicably.

Singapore

Cabinet Reshuffle Effective 2 Jan

BK3012094891 Singapore THE SUNDAY TIMES in English 29 Dec 91 p 1

[Text] Dr Lee Boon Yang will be the new Minister for Labour from Thursday, the Prime Minister's Office announced yesterday.

In a minor ministerial reshuffle, Dr Lee will succeed Mr Lee Yock Suan, who will become the new Education Minister.

And as announced earlier, Dr Ker Sin Tze will be Minister of State in the Ministry of Information and the Arts and the Ministry of Education for a two-year term.

All appointments take effect from Thursday.

The statement also announced that the president had accepted the resignation of Dr Tony Tan as Education Minister on the same day.

Dr Tan, 50, is returning to the Overseas-Chinese Banking Corporation [OCBC], where he was general manager before entering politics in 1979. He will rejoin OCBC Bank as its chairman and chief executive officer.

The statement said that Prime MInister Goh Chok Tong was grateful that Dr Tan had expressed his readiness to serve again should his services be needed urgently.

Also released with the statement were Dr Tan's resignation letter and the Prime Minister's reply.

The new Labour Minister, Dr Lee, 45, will continue as Second Minister for Defence but will relinquish his post as Minister in the Prime Minister's Office. He was promoted to full minister in July.

Mr Lee Yock Suan, 46, was appointed Second Minister for Education in September in preparation for the takeover.

In charge of the Labour Ministry since 1985, he has managed the problems of job losses during the 1985-86 economic recession and of labour scarcity in Singapore's push for more value-added activities.

At a press conference yesterday, he said that his immediate task in the Education Ministry was to consolidate the education reforms initiated by Dr Tan.

Dr Ker, 46, was returned unopposed as an MP for Aljunied GRC [Group Representation Constituency] in the August General Election. His appointment is for a two-year period, after which he will return to Liang Court Pte Ltd, where he is now managing director.

In an earlier announcement on his appointment, the Prime Minister said that Dr Ker would be involved in projects to help the Government reach out to the Chinese ground.

Cambodia

Communique Issued on 30 Dec SNC Meeting

BK3112060191 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 31 Dec 91

["Cambodian Supreme National Council Communique"—read by announcer]

[Text] The Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC] met at the Khemarin Palace in Phnom Penh on 30 December 1991 under the lofty chairmanship of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodia's head of state and chairman of the SNC, with the participation of Their Excellencies and the Prince, representatives of all Cambodian parties and the head of the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia [UNAMIC].

The meeting was held in the presence of representatives of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council as well as representatives of friendly countries. The SNC expressed a vigorous welcome for holding its important and historic first meeting on Cambodian soil before the end of the year and following the signing of the Paris agreement on 23 October 1991.

The SNC expressed most profound gratitude to the Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk for ceaselessly striving to achieve this goal since the samdech's return to the motherland on 14 November 1991. The SNC welcomed the fact that under the samdech's lofty leadership, the SNC Secretariat began its work on 17 December 1991. Along with this, the SNC welcomed the Mixed Military Working Group, which held its first meeting on 28 December 1991 and agreed to control the cease-fire from 1 January 1992 onward.

The SNC expressed gratitude to Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodia's head of state and chairman of the SNC, to all Cambodian parties for their contributions to the progress of the national reconciliation process and the preservation of peace, and to those in charge on the spot who have contributed to creating all necessary conditions for the SNC to function properly in Phnom Penh.

With great satisfaction, the SNC noted the open and constructive atmosphere in its midst. The SNC reaffirmed its determination to fully implement without delay the agreement signed in Paris on 23 October 1991 concerning a comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian problem.

The SNC and its chairman, Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, have decided to issue an appeal to the UN secretary general proposing the rapid dispatch to Cambodia of:

1. The UN secretary general's special representative, and
2. The first group of troops from the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], starting from the beginning of 1992.

The SNC's view is that what is needed for a smooth peace process is respect for the cease-fire, the clearing of mines, the repatriation of refugees, and the cantonment and demobilization of troops within a short period of time under UNTAC control.

The SNC has decided that it will meet two or three times a month at the Khemarin Palace with the participation of the head of UNAMIC and in the presence of representatives of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

The SNC Secretariat will meet once a week on Tuesday under the lofty chairmanship of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk.
[Dated] Phnom Penh 30 December 1991

Khieu Samphan Departs

BK3112041291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0407 GMT 31 Dec 91

[Text] PHNOM PENH, Dec 31 (AFP)—Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan left the Cambodian capital Tuesday, just 24 hours after he arrived to attend the first meeting here of the Supreme National Council (SNC).

The Phnom Penh Foreign Ministry confirmed he took an early-morning flight to Bangkok.

No official explanation was given for his departure, and it was not previously announced.

A communique on the outcome of the SNC meeting—meant to be released after the session ended Monday—was not given out until after Khieu Samphan's departure.

The contents of the communique did not immediately indicate any problems with the Cambodian peace process.

According to the statement, the SNC agreed to meet two or three times a month.

But the SNC chairman, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, had wanted to hold meetings three times weekly. Sources who attended the SNC meeting said the group agreed to meet once a week, and the reason for fewer meetings than originally planned was not known.

The next SNC meeting is scheduled for January 10, according to the sources.

Early Deployment of UNTAC Contingent Urged

SNC Wants Jan Arrival

BK3112055491 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0440 GMT 31 Dec 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK December 31—Cambodia's Supreme National Council [SNC] met here yesterday under the chairmanship of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, agreed to send a letter to UN General Secretary Javier

Perez de Cuellar requesting that UNTAC's [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] first contingent be deployed in Cambodia in January 1992.

A letter, signed by Prince Sihanouk, said: "On behalf of the SNC which is meeting today in Phnom Penh for the first time, I would like to extend to Your Excellency my warmest greetings and my deepest gratitude for your sustained efforts for the implementation of the 23 October Paris agreement for a comprehensive settlement of the Cambodia conflict."

"I am very grateful indeed to learn from H.E. Mr. Ataul Karim, the chief liaison officer of UNAMIC [UN Advance Mission in Cambodia], that Your Excellency is considering to appoint your special representative and to send him to Cambodia as soon as possible. The SNC and myself, we are looking forward to welcoming him and to closely cooperating with him in the near future."

"Past experiences, since the signing of the agreement, have worried all of us. Now everybody agrees that it is of vital importance to have UNTAC, especially its military components, deployed in Cambodia as soon as possible so that the SNC would be able to normally function and to fully cooperate with UNTAC in the implementation of the agreement."

Therefore, on behalf of the SNC, I would like to request Your Excellency for the speedy deployment of UNTAC in Cambodia, especially in Phnom Penh. I wish that UNTAC's first contingent could be deployed in January 1992.

Khieu Samphan on 'Urgent' Need

BK3112021991 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 31 Dec 91 p 2

[Text] Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan yesterday stressed that the implementation of the UN-brokered peace plan in Cambodia depended upon the urgent deployment of UN peace-keeping forces in Phnom Penh and the provinces bordering Thailand.

A contingent of about 1,000 UN officers should be deployed in Cambodia by early next month, the Khmer Rouge leader said prior to boarding a Phnom Penh bound-flight at Don Muang International airport.

The Khmer Rouge official said 80 percent of this UN contingent should be stationed in the capital and the remainder in the western provinces.

Mr Khieu Samphan stressed the need for UN peacekeeping troops just hours before returning to Phnom Penh for the first time since November 27 when civil unrest forced him to flee.

He said the Phnom Penh Government had assured him of his safety when he returns to the former killing-fields of Cambodia.

"I don't have any reason to worry about the Cambodian or the Phnom Penh people because all are compatriots who want peace, independence and national reconciliation," he said.

Another SNC [Supreme National Council] member from the Khmer Rouge, its defence minister Son Sen, did not travel with Mr Khieu Samphan's seven-member delegation yesterday.

"I am going (to Phnom Penh) with the full power to make decisions on the behalf of us both," he said when asked about the absence of Gen Son Sen, who also narrowly escaped being lynched by an angry mob on November 27.

"The events over the past two months since the signing of the peace agreement on October 23 prove that the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] must come as soon as possible," he said.

At the moment, the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia with some 300 officers is preparing for the deployment of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia which is mandated to work alongside the Supreme National Council of Cambodia which symbolizes Cambodian sovereignty and reconciliation.

"I am of the view that SNC alone cannot work without the close cooperation of UNTAC.... The delay of UNTAC's arrival is tantamount to the delay in the implementation of the agreement," he said.

But it will take at least six months for UNTAC to go through the bureaucratic procedures and budget approval that will enable it to function in Cambodia.

Mr Khieu Samphan reiterated the proposal he made at the Phatthaya meeting earlier this month that 1,000 UN officers be dispatched.

Ranariddh Urges Early Dispatch

BK3112072491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 31 Dec 91

[Statement No.1 of Prince Norodom Ranariddh, secretary general of the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia and member of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, made in Bangkok on 28 December—read by announcer]

[Text] In my capacity as the secretary general of the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia [FUNCINPEC] which is a party of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia [SNC], I would like to express solemn and unreserved support for the 27 December 1991 statement of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the SNC. This statement's specific and clear objective is to bring independence and peace back to Cambodia as soon as possible.

In this sense, FUNCINPEC, all my colleagues—both military and civilian—and I myself will do our best to successfulloy implement the Cambodian peace agreement signed in Paris on 23 October 1991. We will closely and sincerely cooperate with all Cambodian factions involved in the Cambodian problem within the framework of the SNC with Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk as the chairman and within the framework of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia, UNTAC.

Furthermore, I would like to appeal to all Cambodian factions to fully and most sincerely implement the Cambodian peace agreement. I also appeal to the United Nations and other international organizations that have helped make this final agreement possible. I earnestly request that the UN secretary general dispatch his special representative and the first contingent of UNTAC to Cambodia as soon as possible in order to start the preliminary work that would permit free elections in Cambodia.

The recent events in Phnom Penh have demonstrated the difficulty and impediment in the implementation of the Cambodian peace agreement. In my opinion, an early, immediate implementation of the above agreement constitutes the best remedy to return peace to Cambodia and end the suffering of the Cambodian people.

Bangkok, 28 December 1991
[Signed] Norodom Ranariddh, secretary general of FUNCINPEC and member of the SNC

Ranariddh Clarifies Stance on Phnom Penh Treaty

BK3112075891 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 31 Dec 91

[Text] According to sources close to the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia [FUNCINPEC], during yesterday's Supreme National Council [SNC] meeting in Phnom Penh, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, supreme commander, commander-in-chief, and secretary general of FUNCINPEC and member of SNC, clarified to meeting participants about the treaty signed between FUNCINPEC and the party of the State of Cambodia [SoC].

Prince Ranariddh said the bilateral agreement signed on 20 November 1991 was not intended against any particular Cambodian faction. That agreement was made in accordance with the resolution of the SNC informal meeting held in Beijing on 18 July 1991. The prince went on to say that the FUNCINPEC-SoC bilateral treaty was reached in the spirit of the provisions of the Paris agreement on peace in Cambodia signed on 23 October. Its aim was to create an atmosphere of reconciliation and harmony among the opposing factions in a bid to help smooth out and accelerate the operations of the UN Advance Mission or UNAMIC in Cambodia.

During that meeting, the prince appealed to the UN secretary general to immediately dispatch his special representative and the first contingent of UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] to Cambodia to begin the implementation of the Paris peace agreement on Cambodia.

Concerning the UNAMIC issue, Prince Norodom Ranariddh informed meeting participants that the United Nations had sent its teams to the headquarters of all Cambodian factions, such as Pailin, Thmar Puok, and Ampil, in order to monitor the cease-fire.

Yesterday's SNC meeting, the first of its kind to be held inside Cambodia, came to a harmonious close.

Denies Isolation of Khmer Rouge

BK3112074091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 31 Dec 91

[Statement No. 2 of Prince Norodom Ranariddh, secretary general of the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia and member of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] I, Norodom Ranariddh, secretary general of the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia [FUNCINPEC], supreme commander of the National Army of Independent Cambodia, and member of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia [SNC], would like to issue the following statement to national and international opinion:

1. It is entirely wrong and untruthful by certain segments of public opinion to charge that Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the SNC, had been leaning toward the government of His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen in Phnom Penh in an attempt to isolate the Khmer Rouge faction. Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk has made the most correct arrangements in all affairs concerning the Cambodian problem in his capacity as the neutral leader and the national reconciliator within the framework of the Cambodian peace agreement signed in Paris on 23 October 1991. The samdech has always resolutely wished to implement the above peace agreement in order to end the suffering of the Cambodian people as soon as possble and return independence to the Cambodian nation.

2. All my colleagues and I myself have not joined the government of H.E. Hun Sen.

3. Prince Norodom Chakkrapong is no longer a member of FUNCINPEC. He has become a member of the Cambodian People's Party. It was H.E. Hun Sen, prime minister of the State of Cambodia, who had appointed Prince Chakkrapong as his personal advisor.

I would like to stress that all FUNCINPEC actions so far are truly and solely aimed at serving the supreme national interests of the Cambodian people and nation.

Hor Namhong Interviewed on Nation's Situation

BK2712165791 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 27 Dec 91

[25 December Interview of Hor Namhong, the State of Cambodia's foreign minister, with a Malaysian journalist (Presna Majid)—place not given; read by announcer]

[Text] [Journalist] Last week, Your Excellency was very busy. I would like to thank you for granting this audience to me. Would you please talk about economic liberalization in Cambodia.

[Hor Namhong] The State of Cambodia [SOC] had liberalized its economy for foreign investments several years ago, not just recently. Now Cambodia has close relations with foreign companies.

[Journalist] What do you think about the Khmer Rouge?

[Hor Namhong] If we have not liberated our people on time, many more of them would have been killed. We are duty-bound to prevent the return to power of the Khmer Rouge regime.

[Journalist] Are you ready to accept peace?

[Hor Namhong] We are ready and determined to implement the Paris peace accord 100 percent. We ask UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] to come to Cambodia at the earliest date to oversee the implementation of the peace accord.

[Journalist] How many UNTAC staff do you want?

[Hor Namhong] Significantly, this issue depends on the funds available.

[Journalist] What do think about the recent demonstrations?

[Hor Namhong] I wish to make the two following distinctions:

1. The respect for human rights and the authorization for peaceful demonstrations.

2. We do not permit violent demonstrations to oppose someone or damage people's property. Recently, armed elements were involved in the demonstrations. Now we are in the process of searching for those people. The government has to ensure security and social order and categorically object to corruption. If there is sufficient evidence, the government will act on it immediately. For myself, I am not for corruption. I am absolutely against it, anyway. Corruption is an effect of economic liberalization.

[Journalist] Do you allow demonstrations against Khieu Samphan?

[Hor Namhong] It is natural that the people should be free to express their anguish.

[Journalist] Is the sale of various ministries' properties true?

[Hor Namhong] It is obvious that workers wanted to have shares. But we were not able to do so because we had to include [the money from the sales] in the state budget. However, some individuals were at fault in the matter, somehow.

[Journalist] Do you believe in the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia?

[Hor Namhong] It is true that the SNC should be reconvened before the year's end. We pledge to guarantee security for the Khmer Rouge faction. At present, we are adhering to the implementation of the cease-fire and cessation of foreign aid. In the near future, there will be 70 percent demobilization of Armed Forces, refugee repartriation, mine clearing, and so on. And as I told Mr. [Ataul] Karim last Sunday, it is not that easy to carry out the implementation. We are going to face a good deal of obstacles. However, we remain optimistic and realistic as always.

[Journalist] Do you welcome investment?

[Hor Namhong] We welcome investment. We have executed economic liberalization from 1988—that is before the restructuring [in the Soviet Union] and renovation [in Vietnam].

[Journalist] What are you?

[Hor Namhong] So far I am not a party member. I am only a liberal democratic nationalist.

[Journalist] Do the country and nation need people like you?

[Hor Namhong] I do not know. However, I love to follow the democratic system.

[Journalist] To develop the country, which country's model you will follow?

[Hor Namhong] We need to look at various foreign countries, such as the ASEAN states. Then we will draw good on experiences that are appropriate for the Cambodian situation from them. We are not [word indistinct].

[Journalist] What do you want Cambodia to [words indistinct]?

[Hor Namhong] Immediately after the liberation, our country's infrastructure was systematically destroyed. We started rebuilding our country from scratch. So our state needs everything: first, modernization of agriculture and irrigation; second, electric energy; and third, telecommunications. In general, we need to develop every sector. In 1979, the people wanted only to live, but now we want to develop, so we need outside assistance.

[Journalist] [question indistinct]

[Hor Namhong] We are considering [the issue].

[Journalist] What will be the new government to be established in 1993 be like?

[Hor Namhong] Any government abiding by the Constitution and democracy is a democratic government.

[Journalist] Will you stand in elections?

[Hor Namhong] I will not be a candidate because I have no political ambition at all. However, if a new government needs my help, I will continue to help.

Villagers Protest Shellings by SRV 'Aggressors'

BK2912032091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 28 Dec 91

[Text] The Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia [VGNUFC] radio has received a message from the people in Kang Meas, Prey Chhor Kraom, and Cheung Prey Districts in Kompong Cham Province, protesting to the Supreme National Council [SNC] over artillery shellings by the Vietnamese aggressors on their villages. Here is the text of the message:

We, the people in Kang Meas, Prey Chhor Kraom, and Cheung Prey Districts in Kompong Cham Province, would like to protest to the SNC, chaired by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodia's head of state, over the cruel and most barbarous shellings by the Vietnamese aggressors on our villages.

From 13 to 18 December 1991, the Vietnamese aggressors most cruelly and barbarously fired 130-mm and 120-mm artillery shells, 100-mm mortar and 80-mm mortar shells, and 107-mm rockets on Ta He, (Mesang), (Stoeng Poun), Roung Veng, O Svay, Anlung Chrey, and Kraol Krabei villages in the above three districts. Many of our relatives were killed or wounded, the mjority of them women and children. Hundreds of cattle, buffaloes, pigs, chickens, and ducks died.

Along with this cruel shelling, the Vietnamese aggressors also robbed and plundered all our property. We, the people in the seven villages in the above three districts, demand the dispatch of the UN Transitional Authority to Cambodia [UNTAC] most quickly so that the SNC and the UNTAC can jointly control and ensure that all types of Vietnamese aggressor forces are withdrawn from Cambodia.
[Dated] 19 December 1991
[Signed] The people of Kang Meas, Prey Chhor, and Cheung Prey Districts in Kompong Cham Province

Villagers Forced To Blame Khmer Rouge

BK3112013891 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 30 Dec 91

["Report from O Svay, (Mesang), and (Stoeng Poun) Villages in Prey Chhor Kraom and Cheung Prey Districts, Kompong Cham Province"]

[Text] On 19 December 1991, after the Vietnamese aggressors most barbarously shelled O Svay, (Mesang), and (Stoeng Poun) Villages, the Vietnamese aggressors forced the people to report to the United Nations in Phnom Penh that the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK] fired artillery shells on these three villages, killing or wounding people and cattle. They were also forced to accuse the NADK of shelling and plundering property in these villages. Those who refused were to be executed. In fact, the people did refuse and instead lodged their protest against the shellings by the Vietnamese aggressors. This is the mother of all tricks to dupe people. However, the people saw through this and categorically opposed it.

Radio Details Vietnamese Sabotage Groups

BK2812021091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 27 Dec 91

[Text] The other day, the Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia radio [VGNUFC] reported that the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK] captured a two-star Vietnamese officer around O Ta Sek along Stoeng Sen River below Kompong Thom provincial town.

Concerning this Vietnamese officer captured by the NADK, VGNUFC radio has received further reports saying that his Vietnamese name is (Ha Van Hoan), that he is 45 years old and is a resident of (An Bai) village, (Thanh Binh) commune, (My Luong) District of Vietnam's Dong Thap Province.

This Vietnamese, (Ha Van Hoan), was previously commander of Vietnamese troops in a battalion operating in Vietnam's 2d Military Region occupying Cambodia, namely, Kompong Cham and Kompong Thom Provinces. After 1989, Vietnamese leaders trained and directed this Vietnamese named (Ha Van Hoan) to leave the Vietnamese Army, become a civilian, and pass himself off as a Cambodian to lead Vietnamese forces disguised as Cambodians and to lead Cambodian forces—some of which Vietnam had managed to build—and serve as a network in Kompong Svay and Stoung Districts in Kompong Thom Province. Among the work assigned to him is an important job; namely, to build a Vietnamese force composed of Vietnamese fishermen living along the Stoeng Sen River and at Phat Sanday and Tonle Sap inside Kompong Thom Province. This force is to be used for carrying out spying and sabotage activities to destroy the economy, the resistance forces, and those Cambodians who oppose Vietnam, and even to destroy those Cambodians who call the Vietnamese "Yuan" [name used by Cambodians to refer to the Vietnamese] instead of "Vietnamese."

According to this Vietnamese named (Ha Van Hoan), the Hanoi Vietnamese have organized forces this way and passed them off as Cambodian civilians to disguise them and prevent them from being controlled by the United Nations; however, these forces will be able to carry out activities which are long-term and strategic.

VGNUFC radio has learned about the situation and activities of the Hanoi Vietnamese to prepare work for (Ha Van Hoan's) group and others like it in many places in Cambodia. In fact, we have captured this type of Vietnamese around Mongkolborei, Sisophon, Kaoh (?Toch), Prey Nop, Sre Ambel, Kampot, Stung Treng, and Kratie.

'Recent Harassments' by Pol Pot Troops Reported

BK2812052491 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0409 GMT 28 Dec 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK December 28—Nearly 3,500 villagers were forced to leave their homes and abandon farmworks due to recent harassments by polpotists in four villages in Prek Koy Commune, Kang Meas District, Kompong Cham Province.

According to Heng Kim, head of the commune, about 300 soldiers of polpotists Division 785 fired at farmers on work in the rice fields, leaving three dead including two children, 19 wounded and 11 head of cattle dead.

Polpotists set ablaze 11 houses and looted villagers' property, Heng Kim said.

"Victims had to flee for their lives and abandoned the cultivation of dry-season rice on 4,477 ha and subsidiary food crops on 119 ha," he said.

"They took all my property, and they destroyed what they could not carry with them. Worse still, they blew up the dams for watering dry-season rice," said Khem Lan, 57, a villager of Kohe.

"We were transplanting rice seedlings when polpotists opened fired at us, and woman standing next to me got wounded on the left leg. I helped her escape from the scene," said Ob Rin, 26.

Provincial and district authorities have distributed 161 bags of rice to these war-affected persons, and the provincial Red Cross will give them more assistance.

The government forces killed 29 polpotists and wounded several others in their counter-attack to drive the raiders out of the four villages.

"Now the villagers have started returning back to their homes", Heng Kim said.

'Big Demonstration' Cited in Kompong Cham 26 Dec

BK2912031491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 28 Dec 91

[Text] Reports from Kompong Cham Province say that on 26 December 1991, a big demonstration was staged by people, civil servants of the Phnom Penh regime, Cambodian soldiers, and students in Kompong Cham provincial town.

In the provincial town, the demonstrators marched in processions everywhere, particularly in front of the provincial economic and communications offices. The demonstrators shouted slogans demanding the resignation of corrupt officials of the Phnom Penh regime and the resignation of Hun Neng [Hun Sen's brother]. They demanded their salaries, which they have not received for six or seven months, and voiced opposition to the sky-high prices of goods and to the worthless riel currency.

NAIC To Protest Attacks by SOC Gunners

BK3112082091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 31 Dec 91

[Text] The General Staff of the National Army of Independent Cambodia [NAIC] said in a report that the Army of the State of Cambodia [SoC] had launched many attacks against the NAIC in Kompong Thom Province and that NAIC would lodge a protest on these harassments.

The report revealed that at 1300 on 22 December the SoC Army violated the liberated zone controlled by NAIC north of the villages of Sen Peay, Prasat, and Thmei which constitute the defense zone of NAIC's 4th Division.

In a bid to avoid confrontation, the 4th Division decided to pull out of that area. The SoC Army fired many artillery shots on those villages, but the combatants of NAIC's 4th Division did not respond.

Recently, at 0400 last Sunday, 29 December, the SoC Army launched a fresh attack on NAIC's 4th Division from the village of Roluoy to the village of Chambak Panh-nha in Kompong Thom Province. A total of 23 105-mm artillery shells were fired. Until 1000 the same day, the SoC Army continued to fire artillery shots at the NAIC combatants who had received orders to not respond.

The General Staff of NAIC said it would protest to the SoC about these attacks.

Phnom Penh Radio Reports on UNTAC Activities

BK3012052291 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 29 Dec 91

[Text] The UN Advance Mission [UNAMIC], which (?recently) arrived in Cambodia, has installed (?communications offices) in Phnom Penh City and in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey and Battambang Provinces. Units and military liaison officers of the United Nations (?to be stationed) in Battambang Province will be led by Colonel (Camron Tariq), a Pakistani.

From the end of November to the end December at the headquarters in Battambang Province UN military units inspected maps of minefields, trained people and army units in demining techniques, inspected ammunition and weapons depots, and conducted research [words indistinct] in Battambang and Pursat Provinces.

UN military units received favorable accommodation and help from local party, state authorities, and people in their tasks.

Uneven Economic Growth Brings Social Problems

BK3112024391 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 31 Dec 91 p 2

[By James Pringle in Phnom Penh]

[Text] It may have been a cliche, but this capital, by general agreement, was once the jewel in the crown of

Asia—a lovely, relaxed city of old French villas and bougainvilla, and smiling, friendly people.

Even after the Khmer Rouge were driven out, and life began again at the bottom of the scale, Cambodians seemed to retain a special charm.

The collapse of communism, the end of subsidies from the former Soviet bloc and the introduction of a free market economy, or what amounts here to raw capitalism, has changed both city and people in a way neither war nor political error seemed able to.

Until violent demonstrations against alleged government corruption on December 21, foreign investment was pouring in.

Under economic liberalisation introduced in 1989, sections of the city are fenced off for construction of big new hotels.

New cars and motor bikes abound.

Lovely old villas are being torn down to make way for concrete apartments. Trees are being chopped up with abandon. Condominiums can't be far behind.

The once quiet city is an inferno of dust and noise, hallmarks of free enterprise. Soon it will be like a second Bangkok.

"You can't make money like this in Europe," enthused a returning French Cambodian businessmen staying at the Hotel Splendid, or Monorom in Khmer, which has itself been purchased by Taiwanese interests.

"You can make big bucks fast here."

Foreign investment was indeed pouring in, and is likely to do so again as the peace process gets under way once more now that Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan has returned and Cambodia's four warring factions have met together for the first time in Phnom Penh.

But that investment is in the form of new hotels, travel agencies, and tourist-related concerns.

"A lot of money from these investments will leave the country," said Francois Grunewald, a Khmer-speaking analyst.

"Many investors are not looking at the development of Cambodia. They want quick money," he said.

Even many ordinary Cambodians are caught up in the rush for the big buck. There is a disconcerting new kind of manic energy about Phnom Penh.

Economically, most have to run just to stay in the same place.

The riel, the Cambodian currency, is wildly fluctuating against the dollar, but has moved steadily upwards, and Cambodian employees of the United Nations and foreign relief agencies have now asked to be paid in riel.

Cambodians manage for only about ten days on their salaries in riel (about 300 baht) and many depend on funds sent in from relatives overseas. But now the value of that cash has plummeted.

The seven million people in the countryside, at least, are used to a subsistence existence, but there again many are getting even poorer.

Diplomats are concerned by the volatile atmosphere here, which has been more pronounced since October when the regime said it was abandoning socialism and promised human rights—a promise since scaled back.

"People are lost—they don't know what is going on," said Grunewald, who has been here 10 years.

"The changes have been too rapid for them to absorb. People are getting rich quickly, and poor quickly too."

"At the same time, they are speaking out for the first time," he said.

This new feeling of confidence prompted the recent demonstration against government personalities allegedly taking rake-off from the scale of state assets—government buildings, state banks, even hospitals.

Many fearing loss of jobs or feeling they were not getting a fair share from the sales thought they had nothing to lose.

A change to a market economy causes dislocation in Eastern Europe, relatively developed compared to fourth world Cambodia, where the estimated per capital income is a mere 3,250 baht per annum.

Some envoys say there is a vacuum here for a centrist party that believes in a market economy but one with certain checks and balances so that impoverished people—the majority—have something to fall back on.

There is a social crisis here, but no one is addressing it, analysts say.

If no one does, some diplomats fear, the Khmer Rouge could benefit despite their past record.

"The Khmer Rouge are the only group who clearly say they are going to take care of the people," said one diplomat.

"They claim the Phnom Penh Government is the party of the rich. There is a vacuum here, with no one but the Khmer Rouge to occupy it."

That is perhaps too pessimistic a scenario—the people have not forgotten how the Khmer Rouge tackled social problems by massacring whole classes.

Depressing also, but probably inevitable, are the changes in the Cambodian pysche.

"Cambodians had a lot of dignity, despite all the problems and difficulties," said Grunewald, an agronomist involved in agricultural development.

"Now that is slowly fading away."

"Perhaps it is unavoidable after so many years of frustration."

as the South-North high-level talks and the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula independently of the discussions of them at working contacts between the delegates and at the South-North high-level talks.

Meanwhile, a high-ranking government official said: Although I cannot be specific about this matter, I understand that the North side has indirectly sounded out our side's opinion on holding summit talks. Since President No on several occasions has noted the need for summit talks, there is a high possibility that summit talks will be held at an early date.

He continued: Because a meeting between the two leaders is part of the presidential prerogative, there is no need to specifically set a date for the summit talks only after the South-North agreement has become effective. Thus, he hinted at the possibility of realizing the South-North summit talks even before 19 February next year when the full texts of South-North agreement will be exchanged and made effective.

Another government source said: It is necessary to remember President Kim Il-song's words—if high-level talks go well, they may lead to summit talks—to former Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun during the second round of the South-North high-level talks held in October 1990. The North Korean side may find the summit talks to be very necessary, given external changes, including the breakup of the Soviet Union, and the internal situation, such as the quickening procedure of power succession following the appointment of Kim Chong-il as the supreme commander of the North Korean armed forces.

MFN Trade Agreement Signed With PRC 30 Dec

SK3112023491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0216 GMT 31 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 31 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea and China signed a trade agreement Tuesday [30 December] in Beijing, conferring most-favored nation (MFN) status on each other.

No Chae-won, head of the South Korean trade mission in Beijing, and Zheng Hongye, chairman of the Chinese Chamber of International Commerce, signed the agreement, a Foreign Ministry spokesman here said.

The accord takes effect after the two countries complete the necessary governmental procedures and exchange documents pledging guarantee of the pact, expected within January.

Seoul and Beijing lack official ties but are inching closer to them. They exchanged trade missions at the beginning of the year and initialed a trade agreement in Seoul Dec. 20, at the end of a three-day negotiation with a Chinese delegation.

The accord abolishes 5 percent to 30 percent discriminatory tariffs on South Korean products, blamed by trade officials here for the trade imbalance of 800 million U.S. dollars in Beijing's favor between January and September this year.

Seoul and Beijing are expected to meet sometime in January in Beijing to discuss concluding an investment guarantee pact.

Talks on Friendship Treaty With Russia Planned

SK3112010391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0047 GMT 31 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 31 (YONHAP)—South Korea will discuss with Russia the signing of a treaty on good-neighborly, cooperative relations as soon as it settles matters concerning diplomatic ties with the 10 other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States in January, a government official said Tuesday.

Korea had cleared the ground for substantial relations with Russia by formally recognizing its independence on Dec. 27, he said [no end punctuation as received]

"The government will seriously consider signing a treaty on good-neighborly, cooperative relations with the Russian Federation as soon as it concludes the issues concerning diplomatic ties with the 10 other independent states of the Commonwealth, including Ukraine, in January," the official said.

The treaty was first proposed with the Soviet Union as the signatory by former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in Cheju summit talks with Korean President No Tae-u in April.

Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok was scheduled to visit Moscow in late January to discuss the signing of the treaty, but postponed his trip due to the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

The official said the Korean Government believed that such a treaty should still be promoted despite dissolution of the union.

Meanwhile, a Foreign Ministry official asked to comment on the reported scrapping of the 1961 North Korea-Soviet Treaty of Friendship and Mutual Assistance said that no official notification had been received from Russia on the subject.

Agency Wins Russian Paper's Advertising Contract

SK3112061191 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 31 Dec 91 p 8

[Text] International PR, an overseas advertising agency, has recently won a contract from KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, Russian newspaper to sell the paper's advertising space to Korean companies.

Government Seeking Trade Office in Pyongyang

SK2812011091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0056 GMT 28 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 28 (YONHAP)—The government is seeking to open a branch office of the state-run Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (Kotra) in Pyongyang and allow North Korea's Trade Promotion Committee to do the same in Seoul, a highly placed government official said Saturday.

The plan was prompted by the fast-moving nuclear negotiations between the two Koreas, which will help remove the major obstacle to bilateral economic exchanges, he said.

"South and North Korea reached a consensus on Dec. 13 that they would establish a joint committee for inter-Korean economic exchanges and cooperation within three months of the effective date of the agreement on reconciliation and cooperation," he said on condition of anonymity.

As part of implementation of the agreement, both sides agreed during the Seoul prime ministers' talks to discuss specific measures to exchange such offices in each other's capital in the next high- level talks, in Pyongyang in February, he said.

The official predicted the exchange of offices could take place in the first half of next year.

Kotra on Thursday reshaped its organization to create a team exclusively working on North Korean affairs and instructed its 12 overseas trade centers to collect information on North Korea's economy.

As South and North Korea lack diplomatic ties, the government is limited in directly promoting inter-Korean economic exchanges, implying that the plan is an alternative, an official at the trade and industry ministry said.

Leaders, Politicians Give New Year's Addresses

No Tae-u Urges Korean Unification

SK3112022491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0154 GMT 31 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 1 (OANA-YONHAP)—President No Tae-u, in his New Year's message to the nation, Wednesday [1 January] called on South and North Korea to achieve unification together, independently of external forces, with their own wisdom and strength.

"All of us share the belief that in the new year we will witness an epochal change that will bring us closer to democracy, prosperity and unification," No said. "The new year will open an era during which we will construct a national community for all our 70 million compatriots."

South and North Korea ended an era of confrontation and hostility and they opened "a new age of reconciliation and cooperation" by signing the inter-Korean agreement last month, he said.

The chief executive pointed out that great progress had been made in efforts to free the Korean peninsula of nuclear terror.

"It is indeed good that in response to our denuclearization initiative and the removal of nuclear arms from the South, the North has announced that it will not produce nuclear arms," No said.

The nation had to put priority on economic revitalization in preparation for another economic takeoff, which required the development of new technologies and commodities, he said.

"The government has been implementing diverse measures, the results of which will be gradually felt in the new year."

No asserted that democracy would soon take firm root in Korea and urged voters to demonstrate their maturity as democratic citizens in this year's elections by making them frugal and honest.

"We should not let the elections shake the very foundation of our national economy and destabilize the people's lives," No said.

"Only when a democratic social order has been solidly established, will it be possible to smoothly promote South-North relations, not to mention the political and economic development of the country," the president said.

No concluded by saying that the government would further endeavor to preserve law and order in all sectors of society based on a national consensus and by calling on the nation to "march forward hand in hand" toward the goal of a unified democratic, prosperous and advanced country.

Ruling, Opposition Party Leaders' Speeches

SK3112061691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0206 GMT 31 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 1 (YONHAP)—Following are summaries of the new year's addresses given by the ruling and opposition political leaders calling for clean and fair elections, and unified efforts for economic recovery:-

Pak Chun-kyu, speaker of the National Assembly

Last year was a year of stormy events. It began with the Gulf war and ended with the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Domestically, local autonomy was reinstated after some 30 years, South and North Korea joined the United Nations, and they signed an inter-Korean agreement.

Unfortunately, our National Assembly fell far short or people's expectations.

Our loss of economic competitiveness is turning foreign consumers away from our products while excessive domestic consumption is widening the trade deficit day by day. What is even more serious is that our workers are losing their will.

1992 can certainly turn our history around. We cannot but worry about corruption, inflation and regionalism with four elections scheduled for the year.

We must all take it to our hearts for clean, untainted elections.

Indonesia

Various Reactions to Dili Inquiry Reported

Possible Negative Responses Noted

BK3012131191 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Ali Alatas says even though the National Investigation Commission has completed its investigation on the 12 November Dili incident, many foreign nongovernmental organizations as well as countries hostile to East Timor's integration into Indonesia, such as Portugal, are expected to continue their criticisms against Indonesia over the incident. Speaking to reporters before a plenary cabinet meeting in Jakarta today, Minister Alatas said these organizations or countries are entitled to their subjective stand, but what is important is that a number of friendly countries described the outcome of the investigation as comprehensive and objective.

Minister Alatas also pointed out that the government's decision to carry out follow-up actions after the completion of the investigation showed its great attention to and sense of responsibility over the incident.

Dailies Comment on Results

BK3112092791 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 30 Dec 91

[From the press review]

[Text] The Yogyakarta-based KEDAULATAN RAKYAT describes as objective, fair, and responsible the outcome of the investigation into the 12 November Dili incident by the National Investigation Commission. The daily notes that the commission's preliminary report should be treated as a reference study for various foreign groups. However, one thing KEDAULATAN RAKYAT wishes to point out is that the East Timor security personnel showed great tolerance and restraint during the incident.

PELITA believes that President Suharto's action as a follow-up to the investigation shows that the Indonesian Government is not [word indistinct] in handling the Dili incident. This can be seen from the fact that President Suharto has summoned all officials involved, namely the Army chief of staff, the interior affairs minister, the coordinating minister for economics, finance, industry, and development supervision, and [words indistinct].

BERITA YUDHA says that in his capacity as commander-in-chief of the Indonesian Armed Forces, the president's decision to fire the two generals must have been based on solid grounds. The president's 28 December decision will certainly boost foreign confidence in that Indonesia has great respect for human rights no matter what the circumstances are. BERITA YUDHA urges members of the public to learn the valuable lesson from the 12 November Dili incident.

KOMPAS describes as logical, discreet, and comprehensive the president's decision to fire the generals after the completion of the investigation. KOMPAS says it is impressed by the president's great attention to the Dili incident. KOMPAS notes that even if the president's decision was made as a result of reaction from foreign countries, especially aid donor countries, such a decision is normal and reflects the Indonesian leaders' astuteness in protecting national interests, namely, the continuity of national development programs. KOMPAS views the president's call for self-introspection as something directed to the entire nation, not only as far as the Dili case is concerned, but also other cases which have negative impacts on society and development.

Russian, U.S. Reaction

BK3012101891 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0951 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] Jakarta, Dec. 30 (OANA-ANTARA)—Russian Ambassador to Indonesia Valeriy V. Malygin has hailed the preliminary report presented by the National Investigation Commission (KPN) on the November 12 incident in Dili, saying that the the inquiry reflects the realities.

"In brief, KPN has worked seriously and its results have reflected the realities," [words indistinct] Monday.

Meanwhile, the U.S. State Department spokesman, Joseph Snyder, at a regular briefing [words indistinct] in Dili, East Timor, reflected "a serious and responsible approach."

"We have seen a press release based on this preliminary report. We believe the commission has taken a serious and responsible approach. We have just now gotten the full text of the commission's preliminary report, and we want to study it before we offer a further assessment," Snyder said in an unofficial transcript of the portion of the briefing received by ANTARA from the U.S. Embassy here Monday.

Official Views Political, Security Situation

BK3012095591 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] Sudibyo, chief of Bakin [State Intelligence Agency], says there was an atmosphere of openness in the country in 1991. This can be seen from the existence of horizontal as well as vertical communications among members of the public, which have in turn aroused their enthusiasm in carrying out development programs.

Speaking to reporters before a plenary cabinet session in Jakarta this morning, the Bakin chief said by expressing their views, members of the public had expressed a certain sense of responsibility to whatever they had said. Sudibyo also believes that the atmosphere of openness will continue to grow in 1992. [passage indistinct on Sudibyo's recorded statement]

The Bakin chief added that as far as the security situation is concerned, the existing threats to the country in 1991 were only those of a minor, local, and sectarian nature.

Laos

Minutes of Thai Border Meeting Reported

BK2812140191 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0430 GMT 28 Dec 91

["Minutes" of first meeting of Lao and Thai general border peacekeeping cooperation committees held in Bangkok 23-24 December 1991; dated 24 December]

[Text] 1. Implementing the agreement on cooperation in maintaining peace and order in areas along the Lao-Thai border as signed between the government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] and the government of the Kingdom of Thailand following a meeting in Cha-am, Phet Buri Province, Thailand, on 17 August 1991, in which a decision was made to set up the general border peacekeeping cooperation committees, the first meeting of the general border peacekeeping cooperation committees of the two countries was held in Bangkok, capital of the Kingdom of Thailand, on 23 and 24 December 1991.

2. The committee of the Lao side was headed by His Excellency Lieutenant General Choummali Sai-gnason, national defense minister and chairman of the Lao-Thai General Border Peacekeeping Cooperation Committee. The committee of the Thai side was headed by His Excellency General Suchinda Khraprayun, Armed Forces supreme commander and Army commander, as chairman of the Thai-Lao General Border Cooperation Committee. The names of members of the committees of both sides are listed in the attached documents 1 and 2.

3. The cochairmen of the two sides discussed and exchanged views on various issues concerning cooperation in maintaining peace, order, and security in areas along the common border. They expressed satisfaction over the progressive improvement of the relations between the two countries. The two cochairmen agreed with each other that it is very necessary for both sides to cooperate in realizing, ever more effectively and firmly, the maintenance of peace and order along the border areas.

4. Gen. Suchinda Khraprayun, cochairman of the Thai side, said in a speech welcoming His Excellency Lt. Gen. Choummali Sai-gnason, cochairman of the Lao side and delegation, that the Thai-Lao General Border Peacekeeping Cooperation Committee with the Armed Forces supreme commander as cochairman of the Thai side and his excellency the national defense minister as cochairman of the Lao side, has the power and duty to coordinate cooperation on the maintenance of peace, order, and security along the border, especially in regard to solving any problem in a timely manner and at a local level in order to prevent it from developing into a major conflict. He noted that the agreement and cooperation achieved by the committees of the two sides in this meeting will lead to turning the Thai-Lao border into a border of peace, friendship, and tranquillity, and that they will also bring about prosperity and happiness for the peoples of the two countries.

5. His Excellency Lt. Gen. Choummali Sai-gnason, cochairman of the Lao side, said: The first consultative meeting was held amid an atmosphere in which the Lao-Thai relations have been increasingly improved. The visit to Laos by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon in March 1990 and the unofficial visit to Laos by Gen. Suchinda Khraprayun, Army commander, in early March 1991, was a significant basic indication of the improvement of the Lao-Thai relations in the new stage. Having a likeminded view of things, the two sides agreed to settle various difficulties in an effective manner in order to turn the border between the two countries into a border of genuine peace and friendship and to make the fraternal and neighborly relations between Laos and Thailand to be developed with each passing day.

6. The two sides discussed an agenda for the meeting. Details on the topics for discussion included in the agenda and the results of the meeting are as follows:

7. The problem of the maintenance of peace and order along the Lao-Thai border:

Regarding the suppression of crimes and terrorist movements along the Lao-Thai border, the meeting agreed to cooperate in implementing clause three of the minutes of the joint consultative meeting held between the Lao and Thai military delegations on 17 August 1990. The clause stipulates that the two sides agreed to cooperate in preventing and suppressing the crimes and terrorist movements as well as the movements of armed exiled Lao rebels along the border areas of each side. The two sides also agreed to exchange information through the mutual contact mechanism in conformity with the law and internal regulations of each country.

The meeting reiterated the policy of their respective governments that forbids any group of rebels to use their territory to launch aggression against another country. They also agreed with each other that the general border peacekeeping cooperation committees and the border peacekeeping cooperation committees at the provincial level will follow up and direct the implementation so that it conforms with the policy of the governments of the two countries.

Regarding the Lao refugees, the meeting agreed to cooperate with the United Nations Office of High Commission for Refugees [UNHCR] in accordance with an agreement reached in the tripartite Lao-Thai-UNHCR meeting on the supervision of preparations for the repatriation of the Lao refugees in Thailand, and in keeping with the program already agreed upon by the tripartite meeting and in accordance with the policy already agreed upon by governments of the two countries. The meeting agreed to have local authorities of both sides coordinate cooperation in preventing illegal immigration.

With regard to the narcotics issue, the meeting agreed to propose to the governments of the two countries to have

3. The committees for cooperation in keeping security along Lao-Thai border are concerned with cooperation in keeping security and stability along the common border, especially with the timely settlement of arising issues so as to prevent them from escalating to a dispute, prevent and combat crimes and all illegal acts along the common border, including promotion of contacts and settlements of border issues at local level.

4. The meeting discussed issues of keeping security along Lao-Thai border and agreed to jointly solve different problems:

4.1 Combatting crimes and terrorist movement along Lao-Thai border.

4.1.1. The meeting decided and agreed to cooperate in realising clause 3 of the minutes of the 17 August 1990 consultative meeting between the Lao and Thai military delegations, including the agreement in exchange of information through the mutual contact mechanism in conformity with the law and internal order of each country.

4.1.2. The meeting affirmed the policy of their respective governments that will not allow any rebel groups to use their soil to launch aggression gainst the other, and agreed that the committees for cooperation in keeping security along the border and those at provincial level will monitor and care for the operation according to the policy of the two governments.

4.2 Lao refugees.

4.2.1. The meeting agreed to cooperate with the UNHCR [United Nations Office of High Commission for Refugees] in accordance with a decision of a tripartite meeting, Lao-Thai-UNHCR, on monitoring the preparation for and the repatriation of Lao refugees in Thailand in keeping with a programme already agreed upon by the three sides and with the policy of the two governments that have agreed to cooperate on the matter.

4.2.2. The meeting agreed on coordination between local authorities of the two sides to prevent illegal immigration.

4.3. Narcotics issue. The meeting agreed in principle to propose the two governments to have the team work concerned coordinated in preventing and suppressing narcotics including exchange of information on goods and narcotics smuggling along the common border of the two countries.

5. Organisation of the cooperation mechanism in keeping security along Lao-Thai border:

5.1 The meeting agreed that the initial cooperation mechanism to deal with solving issues, keeping security along Lao-Thai border in conformity with a policy adopted by the two governments and the committees for cooperation in keeping security along the common border is the provincial level committee for cooperation in keeping security along the common border.

5.2. The meeting agreed to maintain the joint Lao-Thai military committees established at the decision on Feb. 13, 1988 of the Army supreme commanders of the two countries, continuing the original duty and agreed that the committees operate as special work groups dealing with coordination activities for the committees for cooperation in keeping security along Lao-Thai border, each having the border coordination office with location to be informed later.

5.3. The meeting agreed that the military attache already appointed by each side and to be exchanged later, be another mechanism of cooperation and coordination in keeping security along Lao-Thai border.

5.4. To promotly solve the arising issues concerning security along Lao-Thai border, the two sides will exchange information through the existing contact channel, to the maximum interest, ranging from the provincial level, the diplomatic channel including the secretariat office of the two sides' committees.

5.5 In the event that the two sides find any areas of the common border where coordination is necessary, they can jointly consider and determine additional contact points.

5.6. The meeting agreed to jointly define measures or to act in order to solve the matters relating to security along Lao-Thai border so as to make the common border one of genuine peace and friendship, in accordance with the law and order of each contry including agreements between the sides by using coordination both central and local levels in order to effect those measures actions.

6. The meeting unanimously agreed that the committees for cooperation in keeping security along Lao-Thai border hold their second meeting in Vientiane whose schedule is to be fanalised later.

7. The Lao delegation expressed thanks to the Thai delegation, the Thai Government and people for their warm hospitality filled with friendship, considered as promoting ties and mutual understanding between Lao and Thai people.

Rebel, Narcotics Suppression Cited

BK2712100691 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 26 Dec 91

[Text] According to a news report from Thailand, Laos and Thailand have agreed to cooperate in suppressing insurgents stationed in areas along the common border. The Thai News Agency reported that the agreement has been reached following a meeting of the general border peacekeeping cooperation committees of the two countries. The meeting was held for the first time by the committees in Bangkok, capital of Thailand, this week. The statement on this issue was made after the meeting between the chairmen of the general border peacekeeping cooperation committees of the two countries. The chairman of the Lao side was Lieutenant General Choummali Sai-gnason, national defense minister, and work units concerned coordinate cooperation in preventing and suppressing narcotics and exchange information on goods smuggling and narcotics trafficking along the border areas of the two countries.

8. The setting up of a cooperation mechanism for maintaining peace and order along the Lao-Thai border:

The meeting unanimously agreed that the basic cooperation mechanism to solve the problem of peace and order along the Lao-Thai border in accordance with the plan and policy as adopted by the governments and the general border peacekeeping cooperation committees is the border peacekeeping cooperation committee at the provincial level. The meeting agreed to maintain and allow the Lao-Thai joint military committees, which were set up by the decision of the Armed Forces supreme commanders of the two sides following their meeting on 17 February 1988, to continue performing their original duties. The meeting also agreed to have the said joint military committees serve as ad hoc units in charge of carrying out coordination activities in the service of the general border peacekeeping cooperation committees. The ad hoc unit of each side will have its border coordination office at a location to be given later. The meeting also agreed that assistant military attaches already appointed by each side and to be exchanged later will serve as another mechanism of coordination and cooperation in maintaining peace and order along the Lao-Thai border.

In order to solve the rising problem of peace and order in the Lao-Thai border in an opportune manner, the two sides agreed to cooperate to the maximum on the exchange of information through the existing contact channels, ranging from the provincial level to diplomatic channels, including the secretariat offices of the committees of the two sides. In the event that the two sides find any area of the Lao-Thai border requires working coordination, they can jointly discuss the issue and make a decision to (?set up) additional contact points.

The meeting agreed to jointly adopt measures or take action to settle the problem of peace and order along the Lao-Thai border in order to turn it into a border of genuine peace and friendship. Those measures and that action must be in conformity with the law and regulations of each country, including agreements reached between the two sides. To ensure effectiveness, the meeting agreed to have the measures and action be carried out through coordination both at the central and local levels.

9. Other issues:

The general border peacekeeping cooperation committees and the border peacekeeping cooperation committees at the provincial level can hold meetings in accordance with the agreement of 17 August 1991 on cooperation to maintain peace and order along the Lao-Thai border. If subcommittees concerned should be set up, meetings of the subcommittees can be held at the time and places agreed upon by the cochairmen of the committees of both sides. With regard to the expenses of the joint meetings at all levels, the two sides agreed with each other that each side is responsible for the expenses arising from the meeting taking place in its territory, except for the traveling expenses, which each side must be responsible for on its own.

Regarding the change of personnel in the committee, in the event that either side wants to change its cochairman of the committee at a decision of its government, it must propose to its government to promptly inform the other side. In the event that either side wants to change any deputy chairman or any member of the committee, its cochairman of the committee must promptly inform the other side of the matter.

10. Time and place of the meeting, the meeting unanimously agreed that the general border peacekeeping cooperation committees will hold the second meeting in Vientiane capital. Dates of the meeting will be set and informed later.

11. The cochairmen of Lao and Thai sides delivered closing speeches. Details of the speeches are available in the attached documents 8 and 9.

Prepared in Bangkok on 24 December 1991, Buddhist Era 2534, in two copies—one in Lao language and another in Thai language—with identical versions.

[Signed] Lt. Gen. Choummali Sai-gnason, national defense minister and chairman of the Lao-Thai General Border Peacekeeping Cooperation Committee

Gen. Suchinda Khraprayun, Armed Forces supreme commander, Army commander, and chairman of the Thai-Lao General Border Peacekeeping Cooperatiuon Committee

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'Joint Statement' Issued

BK2812105691 Vientiane KPL in English 0918 GMT 28 Dec 91

["Joint Statement by the Committees for Cooperation in Security Along Lao-Thai Border"—KPL headline]

[Text] Vientiane, Dec. 28 (KPL)—The Lao-Thai and Thai-Lao committees for cooperation in keeping security along the common border of the two countries have issued a joint statement following their first meeting held on 23-24 December in Bangkok, Thailand. Here is the full text of the joint statement.

1. The first meeting of the committees for cooperation in keeping security along Lao-Thai border was held on 23-24 December in Bangkok and co-chaired by their presidents, Lientenant General Choummali Sai-gnason, minister of national defence on the Lao side, and General Suchinda Kraprayun, supreme commander and Army commander-in-chief on the Thai side.

2. The meeting proceeded in a very good atmosphere of friendship as a result of an agreement on cooperation in keeping security along the Lao-Thai border signed by the two governments in August 17, 1991 in Cha-am of the Thai Phet Buri Province.

the chairman of the Thai side was General Suchinda Khraprayun, Armed Forces supreme commander and Army commander.

In the meeting, the two sides have agreed to exchange information on the issue and not to allow any group of insurgents to operate on their soil so that they constitute threats to another country. According to the Thai News Agency report, Thailand and Laos have also agreed to cooperate with the United Nations Office of High Commission for Refugees [UNHCR] in implementing the refugee repatriation program on a voluntary basis. The Thai News Agency has added that the delegations of the two countries have also agreed to prevent an illegal border crossing of the people and to seek ways to suppress narcotics trafficking.

Success in Organizational Work Urged

BK3112061191 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 29 Dec 91

[Editorial: "Translate Into Practice the Success of the Seventh National Conference on Organizational Work"]

[Text] As reported earlier, after busily conducting work for 10 days, on the afternoon of 26 December 1991 the seventh national conference on organizational work was concluded with brilliant success. During its working sessions the conference heard a lecture given by Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee [LPRP CC], president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], and beloved and respected leader of the multiethnic Lao people, pointing out the special importance of the conference, which was convened at a time when the entire country is profoundly and comprehensively implementing the policy of restructuring outlined by the Fifth LPRP Congress and when the world situation is rapidly and confusingly changing.

He noted that thanks to its tradition of triumphantly leading the Lao revolution, our party still remains directly in charge of the existence and development of the people's democratic regime in our country. Therefore, in the new situation, especially in view of the complex international situation as well as the internal situation plagued with numerous difficulties, the consolidation and building of the party and the training of cadres to become firm and strong ideologically, politically, and organizationally so as to enhance the role of the party as the leading core of our political system still remain a matter of life and death for the revolution in our country. At the same time, the chairman also noted the orientation, duties, and direction of the party's cadre organzational work in the coming years.

The conference heard a report presented by the head of the LPRP CC Organizational Board on the situation of the organizational work in recent years as well as on the direction of the party's cadre organizational work in the immediate future. It also heard views of party leaders in charge of the inspection, propaganda, and training work of the LPRP CC as well as reports of model services at the center and from various localities and units on the party organizational work and grass-roots building.

After expressing their views in a democratic and frank manner that was full of substances, the delegates to the conference highly appreciated and unanimously agreed with the statement made by the LPRP CC chairman and the report [presented by the head of the LPRP CC Organizational Board] on the situation of the organizational work in recent years and the duties and direction of the organizational work in the coming years.

The conference noted that numerous efforts have been made in executing the party and cadre building work in the political and ideological area in recent years, thus encouraging the majority of cadres and party members to maintain the revolutionary tradition and to continue acting as the leading models in remaining loyal and faithful to the party and people, firmly confident in the party leadership, unified in providing support to the restructuring policy, enthusiastic in carrying out the revolution, and vigilant to observe the organizational work and discipline.

Though faced with numerous difficulties in their living conditions, the majority of cadres and party members still remain firm and tolerant models in overcoming difficulties and determinedly heightening a sense of perseverance in fulfilling their duties.

All this clearly shows that our party and cadres are incessantly growing stronger both in the quantitative and qualitative aspects, remain close to the people, and are becoming more responsible in organizing implementation of the party's line and policies and the state's plans and laws.

It should also be noted that the party's line has also undergone profound and all-round changes. Nonetheless, the party and cadre organzational work still appears to be lagging behind the restructuring process. The most obvious weakness is that the organizing of implementation of the party's line and policies and the state's plans is not yet firm. The efficiency level of this work remains low, especially at the grass-roots level. Even though many efforts have been made to restructure the organizational apparatuses, the outcome still fails to meet the requirements of the political duties in the new period. The organizational apparatuses from the center down to localities remain enormous, redundant, and overlapping. The number of personnel remains too large while their quality remains low. The higher level remains topheavy while the lower levels are undermanned. (?The state) lacks personnel with adequate knowledge and abilities to provide sound leadership to the organizational apparatuses, thus causing the movement in this work to be less enthusiastic and vigorous.

To translate into practice the success of the conference on organizational work, the forum agreed that it is necessary for us in the immediate future to pay attention to seriously implementing the advice given by the LPRP CC chairman. The party committees at all levels and in all services must profoundly study, appreciate, and grasp the [words indistinct] and views of the party in each period. We must further develop and enhance the solidarity and unification within the party, enhance a sense of creative mastery, be highly determined in organizing the implementation of this work, vigorously turn to the grass roots to carry out the party building and cadre training work, remain close to the mass movements, and encourage the masses to contribute to party building.

The party committees at all levels and all party members must correctly implement the various principles, (?guidelines), and regulations of the party, for example by strictly implementing the principle of democratic centralism within the party.

Therefore, to ensure the triumphant implementation of the resolution of the Fifth LPRP Congress, the direction and duties of the organizational work in building the party and training cadres in the immediate future is aimed at accomplishing the following important tasks:

Step up the party building work to become firm in the political and ideological area and to become strong organizationally.

Increase the party's leadership ability to fulfill political duties in the new period.

Increase the effectiveness of management and supervision of state organizations with a view to doing away with all negative phenomena in our society and purifying all organizational apparatuses so they can effectively fulfill their management duties.

Consolidate the front and mass organizations at all levels.

Speedily train cadres to meet the requirements of the restructuring to take the country forward to attain the objectives outlined by the Fifth LPRP Congress.

Army Units Urged To Win More Victories in 1992

BK3012142391 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0430 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Editorial: "Let us resolutely enhance the achievements accomplished in the past year and strive to win greater victories"]

[Text] In the past year, fulfilling the overall duties as well as the national defense and public security maintenance tasks and vigorously implementing and translating into reality the party's policy of effecting political renovation under the beacon of the resolution adopted at the Fifth Party Congress, our Armed Forces have closely coordinated and united their strength with that of the entire people to implement the two tasks of national defense and national construction with a high sense of responsibility.

Over the past year, the situations in the world and in this region have rapidly changed, thus causing serious repercussions to the world's revolutionary and national liberation movements. In our country in particular, exploiting the said rapidly changing world situation, certain bad elements have ventured to carry out activities to oppose our revolution through various cunning forms and methods. For example, they have employed psychological warfare tactics to deceive our people into following an extravagant lifestyle and engaging in other social vices in order to change our society through peaceful means. While faced with such confusing changes in our situation, we have also encountered a decrease in production due to drought.

Nonetheless, looking through the movement of our practical deeds, we can say that our Armed Forces still remain prepared to fight the enemies and to defeat their tactics under all circumstances. They have won many victories and achievements in various fields—political, ideological, and organizational. As for the ranks of the Armed Forces themselves, they have been consolidated and changed from being quantitative to being qualitative and from being multifaceted to being simple in organization to conform to new mechanisms. All cadres and combatants in the entire Armed Forces have enriched themselves with more revolutionary qualifications, have further forged a sense of loyalty and faith in the party and the country, and have unprecedentedly learned how to clearly identify friends and foes.

At present, our Armed Forces have vigorously turned attention to the grass-roots level by striving to build all-round strong units and firm and faithful party cells to incessantly elevate their own quality. In the national defense and public security maintainance field, our Armed Forces have become the firm fundamental strength in defending our territory and safeguarding the people's life and property. They have organized and guided the multiethnic people in building the country and boosting production with a sense of confidence. This means that in executing their national defense and public security maintenance work, our Armed Forces have managed to basically bring about peace and security to all localities throughout the country. All this constitutes a great and firm achievement and proud victory won by our Army and people.

New phenomena have also clearly emerged in the area of acquiring food for the Army and building the economy to improve the living conditions of our officers and soldiers. By switching from the state financing management system to the system of building the family and collective economies and greening military camps, our Armed Forces have embarked on the road of becoming self-sufficient in food stuffs and building their own strength. After effecting a new organizational system within the army and engaging in building the family economy, many units and families in our Armed Forces have become self-sufficient in food and goods production to a certain extent, thereby enabling them to gradually save some money to buy essential goods and transport means for their families and to meet the requirements in their daily life.

Having actively carried out the movements to fulfill the afore-mentioned overall direction, national defense and public security maintenance work, and economic construction tasks and having maintained a sense of determination to become self-sufficient, our Armed Forces have accomplished numerous great and firm achievements in the political, military, and economic fields and in launching a political campaign throughout the Army. All party units, party members, leading and commanding cadres, and the masses in all units have highly valued the achievements won by our Army. Many comrades have already been nominated to become candidates for the first and second class outstanding elements of the Armed Forces this year. Already, many comrades have been selected to be model cadres and comrades for their outstanding performance in various fields of work.

To further enhance the achievements won by our Army in the past year and to march forward to accomplish greater and more glorious victories in the coming year to welcome the forthcoming Lao People's Army founding anniversary and the party founding anniversary, all units must urgently organize emulation campaigns and encourage all forces—be they men or women—to participate in these movements. In particular, all members of the youth, women's, and trade unions that act as the central forces of all units must be encouraged to extensively engage in such movements. Leading and commanding cadres must closely organize, guide, and supervise these emulation campaigns from the beginning to the end to ensure that new greater and more glorious achievements be accomplished in the coming year and the years to come.

Use of Highest Order for Foreign Leaders Approved

BK3112030691 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 31 Dec 91

[Decree of Kaysone Phomvihan, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, LPDR, on the approval of use of the "Phosai-Lan Xang" order; dated 27 November 1991]

[Text] With reference to Item 8 in Article 53 of the Constitution of the LPDR and Decree No. 11/Kho Po Cho of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] dated 19 November 1991 on the minting and use of the "Phosai-Lan Xang" medals, the president of the LPDR has issued the following decree:

Article 1. To approve the use of the "Phosai-Lan Xang" medal as the highest order of the LPDR.

Article 2. The "Phosai-Lan Xang" order is to be conferred only on leaders of friendly countries who have made virtuous contributions to strengthening friendship and establishing effective cooperation between their countries with the LPDR.

Article 3. The government is authorized to organize effective implementation of this decree from the day it is signed.

Vientiane
[Dated] 27 November 1991
[Signed] Kaysone Phomvihan.

Philippines

Abadia Comments on Ties With U.S.

HK3112095791 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 1100 GMT 31 Dec 91

[Text] The relations between the United States and the Philippines will continue by means of a defense pact even when the U.S. bases are gone. This was announced by General Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] chief of staff. According to Abadia, the Armed Forces of both the Philippines and the United States will continue to cooperate with each other due to the defense pact. The two countries would continue to exchange technology, knowledge, equipment, and military facilities.

At the same time, Abadia stressed that the Congress should give priority to the added funds which they are asking for for the modernization program of the Armed Forces. He said that the government left the military with an enormous responsibility after the formation of the Philippine National Police. He said that it is imperative that the budget for the external defense posture not be sidetracked in order to prepare for the withdrawal of the U.S. bases from the Philippines.

Honasan: Rebels To Ensure Honest Elections

HK3012085691 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 30 Dec 91 p 1

[By Manny Mogato]

[Text] Rightwing rebel leader Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan said they would "join forces" with the military in ensuring clean, honest and credible elections in May 1992.

In an open letter dated on Christmas Day which was sent to news organizations, Honasan warned pro-administration candidates and other politicians trying to manipulate the elections results that they would "join forces with the AFP [Armed forces of the Philippines] leadership to protect the sovereign will and recognize the people's choice."

"Under the Constitution, the soldier is the protector of the people and the guardian of public welfare," he said.

Honasan, a cashiered military officer, also urged the people to vote "wisely" by electing candidates "who have the God-given gifts to leadership."

"Elect a leader with so much to give, not one with so much to take at the expense of the suffering majority," he said.

But military sources doubted the authenticity of Honasan's open letter, saying it was part of a "disinformation campaign" waged by some sectors whom they did not identify.

Military rebel leaders confined at maximum security detention cells in Fort Bonifacio and camp Aguinaldo could not also immediately authenticate the letter, saying that they have yet to receive a copy.

The military sources, however, said the letter contained "discrepancies" which led them to doubt its authenticity.

For one thing, they said, the letter should have been printed in RAM (Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa) [Revolutionary Nationalist Alliance] stationary and should have been signed not only by Honasan but also by Domingo Calajate, also a cashiered officer in the Navy.

Both Honasan and Calajate were identified as leaders of the RAM executive committee.

Another supposed discrepancy was that Honasan did not use his military rank—colonel—in signing the open letter.

Moreover, the sources said, the letter, unlike most of RAM's previous statements, was not made on computer printout but typed on a long bond paper.

In his letter, Honasan urged soldiers to intervene in case the May elections would turn dirty.

"We have the capacity to do our solemn duty thru a peaceful, democratic and Constitional Rescue (Core), not thru a coup d'etat without prejudice, of course, to an active self-defense."

If the letter was genuine, military sources said, this was the first time Honasan had talked about Core, an idea which became popular to Marcos loyalists two or three years ago.

The source said that at the time Honasan was openly advocating for a "coup cum revolution" as RAM's main vehicle to gain political power.

In a related development, Defense Secretary Renato de Villa assured that the May elections would be "relatively clean and peaceful," although pockets of violence were expected in at least 24 "traditional hot spots."

"We expect next year's elections, by and large, to be credible and generally peaceful," he told reporters, adding both the military and police were ready to quell violence before and during the polls.

He added there would be no reshuffle in the military leadership because unlike the Philippine National Police, the AFP would play only a "secondary" role during the elections.

De Villa said the military was now less vulnerable to political pressures and if changes would occur, it would be due to "normal rotation of assignments" and not because of fears that some officers would meddle in the elections.

Cardinal Sin Reportedly Not Supportive of Ramos

HK3112080391 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 31 Dec 91 p 3

[By staff member Booma Cruz]

[Text] Although the Catholic Church has said it would refrain from endorsing any presidential candidate in the 1992 elections because of the separation of church and state, its voice may yet influence the deeply religious President Aquino.

Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin met with Mrs. Aquino last Friday and allegedly dissuaded the President from endorsing former defense secretary Fidel Ramos, a palace source said yesterday.

"He (Ramos) is not an acceptable candidate," a Malacanang official, who asked not to be named, quoted Sin as saying.

Mrs. Aquino reportedly consulted Sin on the candidate she will endorse in a meeting with her brother, Rep. Jose Cojuangco, and Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon.

The Palace source said, "the prince of the church" did not lobby for a particular candidate but made it clear that Ramos was not the ideal one.

"He went as far as telling everything about Ramos. Sin read the riot act on Ramos...about what kind of character he has. He said so many things, the most basic of which is Ramos is not acceptable," the source added.

The cardinal, the Palace official said, did not question Ramos' religion but raised certain moral issues against him.

Sin allegedly asked the President not to endorse any candidate, a promise which the President has repeatedly said in the last few months. Mrs Aquino promised to publicly announce her choice of candidate on her birthday, Jan. 25, although her political advisers and associates will be informed of her decision on Jan. 6.

The President is still expected to fulfill her promise next month, despite Sin's advice. However, the person behind her choice candidate has remained a mystery even to her close advisers, especially with the recent turn of events.

Malacanang officials conceded that while Mrs Aquino's choices were limited to the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino [Struggle of Filipino Democrats] standard bearer Ramon Mitra, Ramos and former supreme court chief justice Marcelo Fernan—all pro-administration candidates—the House speaker now has an edge over his two rivals for the president's blessing.

Mrs Aquino, another palace official said, was irked by Fernan's statement over the weekend that he would run "with or without" the president's endorsement.

The President has always stressed that she would give her endorsement only to the deserving candidate who would ask for her support.

Mitra has consistently sought Mrs. Aquino's endorsement in spite of Malacanang's tacit support for Ramos' bid for the presidential nomination.

Ramos Aide Criticizes Cardinal Sin

HK3112095591 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 31 Dec 91

[Text] Congressman (Edelmiro) Amante said that leaders of the church should not meddle into the affairs of the different political parties because it might lead to discord. This was Congressman Amante's reaction to reports that Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin asked President Corazon Aquino not to endorse former Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos' candidacy. Amante, the president of the newly-formed People Power Party, said that he did not believe that Cardinal Sin made such a request because he [not further identified] knows that the president has her own decision on this matter and that she simply does not accept unsolicited advice. Amante added that if religion were used as a measuring stick or basis not to vote for a candidate, this would be a dangerous course to take, for it will only divide the people by religion, thus resulting in disunity.

Military To Send 7,000 Troops to Kalinga-Apayao

HK3112080491 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 31 Dec 91 pp 1, 8

[By Fe B. Zamora]

[Text] Luna, Kalinga-Apayao—The Armed Forces will field at least 7,000 combat troops and engineers for a final offensive to clear this province of communist rebels and win over the hearts of inhabitants by June 1992.

Brig. Gen. Edgardo Batenga, chief of the Army's 5th Division, said the offensive—dubbed Oplan Lansagin Dos [Operation Plan Dismantle II]—is a mixture of an all-out military campaign and civic action slated to run from January to June 1992.

"This is a fast-track method. Our goal is to attain strategic control (in Northern Luzon) by 1992," Batenga said.

In a briefing, Batenga told Army chief Maj. Gen. Arturo Enrile that he would quit his post if he failed to meet the deadline.

"I lose my moral right to lead the division if I fail to meet the deadline," he said.

Batenga said at least three Army brigades with air support will be deployed against the New People's Army [NPA] guerillas here. A brigade is composed of about 2,500 men.

Oplan Lansagin Dos also paves the way for a three-year economic development plan for Marag Valley, which includes the construction of roads and school houses, organizing police and paramilitary units in the barangays, and installing a legitimate government.

"It's like the Philcag [Philippines Civic Action Group], we sent to Vietnam. It's a civic-action group but with a security component," explained Col. Roberto Manlongat, chief of the Army's 503rd Infantry Brigade.

Marag Valley is governed by a revolutionary government headed by Balen Ventura. Manlongat said Ventura has about 500 fully-armed flighters backing up his "government."

The military believes Marag has been the headquarters of the Far Northern Luzon Revolutionary Committee since 1983.

The military hopes Lansagin Dos would be the last offensive in war-torn Marag Valley. Intense military operations were also launched in rebel strongholds in Zinundungan Valley near Cagayan, Paco Valley, and the towns of Conner and Pinukpuk.

In October 1990, the Army launched Oplan Salidummay [Salidummay—a native song], with helicopter gunships and mortar firing on "identified" NPA lairs in Marag Valley.

Oplan Salidummay was stopped when human rights groups and religious organizations raised fears that innocent civilians were killed in the bomb runs. The complaints triggered an investigation by Congress.

In September, the military launched Oplan Silawan [Operation Plan Guiding Light], a military campaign with a heavy thrust on civic-oriented activities. At least 38 soldiers and 115 NPAs have been killed in clashes since September, Manlongat said.

He said soldiers fought the rebels while the Army engineers repaired the road leading to Barangay Bucao, the center of Marag Valley. Soldiers also constructed schoolhouses in some barangays.

19 Fishermen 'Languishing' in Indonesian Prison

HK2412045691 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 24 Dec 91 p 17

[By Manuel R. Baliao]

[Text] General Santos City—Media have been asked to publicize the plight of 19 South Cotabato fishermen still languishing in Indonesian jails for illegal fishing charges.

The appeal was made by Dr. Ernesto Salazar, head of the South Cotabato Purse Seiners Association (SOCOPA), the umbrella organization of local commercial and small fishing operators.

"In the face of unconscionable government neglect and apathy, only the media can effectively take the cudgels for our hapless fishermen," Salazar said in a recent press forum here.

Salazar branded as "baseless" the illegal fishing raps brought against the 19 fishermen, who have been detained without bail since they were arrested last Sept. 27 for alleged illegal fishing along the Indonesian border of Tajuna.

He said South Cotabato and Davao fishermen have been using the fishing ground there for the past three years without encountering any problem with the Indonesian government.

"Why the sudden belligerence, this arrogance on the part of the Indonesians?" Salazar asked.

Moreover, he said, the Philippines and Indonesia have yet to agree on their respective 200-mile exclusive economic zones as embodied in the UN Law of the Sea, of which both countries are signatories.

Salazar said that without a mutually agreed demarcation line, there was really no way to telling which is Indonesian waters and which is not.

"Our position is that our fishermen were fishing inside our 200-mile exclusive economic zone reckoned from our nearest shore," he said.

Salazar cited the long and friendly ties between the Philippines and Indonesia, and called on the latter to set the detained fishermen free in a spirit of modus vivendi.

At the same time, Salazar lambasted Malacanang and the Department of Foreign Affairs for not exerting serious efforts to secure the release of the fishermen, many of whom have complained of maltreatment by their captors.

He said the unresolved border dispute between the two Asean neighbors has greatly affected the local fishing industry which generates more than $70 million in annual tuna exports to Japan and Europe.

"Production is now down by 40 percent because many of our fishermen don't want to venture too far out into the high seas for fear of the Indonesian navy," Salazar said.

19 Filipinos Released By Yugoslavia

HK2612124491 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 1100 GMT 26 Dec 91

[By Rey Sibayan]

[Text] Nineteen Filipinos were released after being detained for 10 days at Cleasy Prison in Novisaad, Yugoslavia for illegally crossing the Yugoslavian-Hungarian border.

According to a telex sent by Belgrade Ambassador Jose Fernandez to Administrator Jose Sarmiento of the Philippine Overseas Employment Authority, the Filipinos were arrested after they attempted to cross the Yugoslavian border on their way to Italy. According to Fernandez, the Filipinos were so desperate to get back to the Philippines that they attempted to cross Yugoslav, and they would have been successful had they not been arrested.

In line with this incident, Fernandez warned other border crossers that Yugoslavia has implemented tighter border crossing rules and that anyone caught violating these rules will be banned from the country for a year. Fernandez further explained that these more stringent rules were implemented by Yugoslavia in light of earlier reports that some Filipino entrants were being hired as mercenaries by the Croatian Government to aid them in the ongoing civil war.

Sarmiento also warned all Filipinos going to Italy to avoid illegally crossing the Yugoslavian border in order to avoid imprisonment and to avoid getting trapped in the ongoing Croatian-Yugoslavian civil war.

Thailand

Goals of Bush's Asia-Pacific Trip Discussed

BK3012053391 Bangkok THE NATION in English 30 Dec 91 p A8

[Editorial: "Bush's Asia-Pacific Trip"]

[Text] Today President Bush embarks on a 42,000-km trip to Australia, Singapore, South Korea and Japan to open markets in the Asia-Pacific region for more American exports and re-emphasize US commitment to regional security. He hopes to achieve some tangible results, especially in terms of Japanese economic concessions, so that he can cite them in his annual State of the Union address after the trip. The White House has dropped strong hints that Bush intends to outline new economic measures designed to help hard-pressed Americans cope with the prevailing recession and growing unemployment.

Bush's trip takes place at a time when his popularity is on a decline because of the hard times in the US and the Democrats' gripes in Congress that he is not giving enough attention to domestic problems. Bush postponed the trip from last November in the wake of the complaints. The postponement gave his men more time to arm-twist Japanese leaders into making more economic concessions in order to enable Bush to claim some concrete outcome from the 12- day tour.

Moreover, Bush will be bringing along 21 key American corporate leaders, including chief executive officers [CEO] of General Motors, Ford Motors and Chrysler Corporation, to show the American public that he is making extra efforts to help these business leaders open doors overseas. But whether or not Bush will actually spend much time talking and listening to their problems during the tour is unclear. These corporate CEOs are themselves somebody to be reckoned with anywhere they go and they don't seem to need the US President to help open doors. Perhaps the most they can hope for is to be able to boast to their subordinates and business partners back home that they have told Bush so and so and Bush seems to understand their problems.

In Australia, where Bush will be Dec 31-Jan 3, it will be more or less an extended rest stop after the transcontinental flight. Bush originally intended to return a visit to Prime Minister Bob Hawke who had visited the US. But since Hawke was unseated by his archrival Paul Keating two weeks ago, Bush will take this opportunity to get acquainted with the new Australian premier.

Next, in Singapore during Jan 3-5, Bush's visit will undoubtedly boost the sagging prestige of Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, who was disappointed by a relatively poor showing of the ruling People's Action Party in the last general election. Bush will thank Singapore for providing facilities to a unit of USAF F-16 interceptors and maintenance services to US warships. The US military presence in Singapore will have increased symbolic importance after the complete US departure from the Philippines at the end of next year.

Perhaps Bush's most important stop in terms of regional security is in South Korea where he will be during Jan 5-7. Bush is expected to voice support to President No Tae-U's proposal on denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. But he may stop short at confirming the South Korean government's claim that all of US tactical nuclear weapons in South Korea have been withdrawn.

Neither South Korea, nor Singapore nor Australia have much untapped potential for American exports. South Korea and Australia produce their own cars and trucks; South Korean small cars are competing with Japanese cars for a larger market share in the US. Singapore, on the other hand, imports more Japanese and European cars than American cars and is buying everything the US has to offer, including American expertise in manufacturing popular cigarettes. Now Singapore-made cigarettes with American brand-names are flooding the Thai and Cambodian markets although Singapore government is actively campaigning for a smoking-free society by the end of this century.

Bush's visit [to] Japan during Jan 7-10 will be most important economically speaking. And a joint US-Japanese declaration, containing several Japanese promises to buy more American products, especially auto parts, has reportedly been worked out. Japanese government and business leaders are well aware of the trade friction with the US, especially the $40-billion trade surplus created chiefly by the exports of Japanese cars and auto parts to the US.

Democrat congressmen, led by Richard Gephardt, want Japan to eliminate the massive Japanese trade surplus in five years. But what do these American lawmakers want Japan to buy from the US? More American gas-guzzlers and Washington apples? Chances are that some of the 21 American CEOs accompanying Bush would want to sell part of their unprofitable businesses to some Japanese buyers.

When Bush returns home he will likely claim "success" and urge the American people to try harder to compete internationally. And more importantly re-elect him so that he and the powerful US armed forces can continue to make this world "safe for democracy."

Soviet Embassy Becomes Russian Embassy

BK2812023491 Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 Dec 91 p A4

[Text] The Embassy of the former USSR in Thailand yesterday announced that the official name of the country had been changed to the Russian Federation.

The embassy's First Secretary Igor B. Akimov said in a statement that as of Dec 25, 1991, the official name of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics has been changed to the "Russian Federation" or Russia.

He said that in accordance with the interenationally recognized principle of a successor state, the Russian Federation is the legal replacement of the former USSR, therefore the embassy is now the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Thailand.

Moscow Approaches Commerce Ministry To Buy Rice

BK2812024491 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 Dec 91 p 11

[Text] Moscow has approached the Commerce Ministry to buy 500,000 tons of Thai rice for shipment next year on a government-to-government basis.

A high-ranking ministry source said Russian Ambassador to Thailand Oleg Bostorin told Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on of the purchase intention when they met at the ministry yesterday.

The source said Moscow wanted to buy the cereal on long-term credit.

He said the shipment was to help ease food shortages in the Russian Federation which just voted itself out of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) as other independent states to form a new commonwealth to replace the Soviet Union.

The latest talks were inconclusive and the Soviets will send a delegation for further negotiations in mid-January.

The source said the Russians were expected to ask the ministry to sell 500,000 tons of rice under a government-to-government deal with a credit term of at least two years as in the previous contract.

Earlier, the Soviet Union had entered a contract with the ministry, through Thai Hua, to buy 200,000 tons of Thai rice, but the deal was still pending because the ministry could not find an international commercial bank to confirm the letter of credit for this rice deal, although the Bank of Thailand had agreed to provide $50 million over two years as packing credit.

The source said the success of this rice deal depended on the decision of Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI] which had agreed to find Japanese commercial banks to guarantee the letter of credit for the Russian rice deal.

"At the latest talk with an MITI representative in Chiang Mai early this month, the Japanese agreed to help Thailand but wanted to wait for the latest development in Moscow before making any decision," he said.

The source said if the deal could be concluded, it would help boost local rice prices, because many rice exporters were currently making numerous forward contracts with foreign buyers in the strong belief that the 1991-92 rice crop would be a bumper one.

Bank Studies Representative Offices in SRV

BK2512115391 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 25 Dec 91

[Text] Surin Nimmanhemin, the managing director of Krung Thai Bank, disclosed that he has instructed bank officials to conduct a feasibility study on the establishment of a representative office in Vietnam. Surin said his visit last week to Vietnam as member of the Bank of Thailand delegation enabled him to learn about Vietnam's investment policy. The central bank of Vietnam does not permit foreign commercial banks to open branches in Vietnam at this time—only representative offices are allowed. Six representative offices of foreign banks, including Thailand's Military Bank, now operate in Vietnam. The Krung Thai Bank feasibility study on the opening of a representative office will center on investment return and economic potential. Surin believes a representative office in Vietnam will give a high yield because Vietnam has plenty of natural resources. He says there is good possibility that his bank will set up two representative offices—in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. He discloses that bank officials have also been dispatched to study the economic situation in Cambodia and Laos, but the preliminary study reveals no clear picture at this time. He notes that his bank is also giving attention to socialist countries which have recently opened up economically.

Deputy Public Health Minister Leaves for SRV

BK2612134191 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 26 Dec 91

[Text] Deputy Public Health Minister Dr. Athasit Wetchachiwa left for the SRV yesterday morning. He told reporters at the VIP room of the Don Muang Aiport before his departure that during the visit, he will discuss with the SRV officials the establishment of public health cooperation between the two countries. His delegation includes Professor Dr. Thephanom Muangman, dean of the Faculty of Public Health of Mahidon University, and Dr. Chinosot Hatbamroe, assistant permanent secretary for the Public Health Ministry. Dr. Athasit said that they would exchanges views with the SRV officials and observe public health activities, medical treatment at hospitals, health technology, research, and primary health care, traditional medicine, and herbs which are widely used in Vietnam. There will also be discussion on medical studies. The Hanoi University has contacted Professor Dr. Thephanon for Thailand to arrange for master's degree-level studies on public health to be held between Mahidon University and the Hanoi University.

Army To Help UN Group Clear Mines at Border

BK3012042991 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 30 Dec 91 p 1

[Text] The United Nations Advanced Mission in Cambodia has requested that Thailand despatch an army regiment to help collect land mines on the Thai-Cambodian border.

Deputy Foreign Minister Wichian Watthanakhun said that Thai troops would operate independently and would not be considered as part of the UN advanced mission.

Japan Grants Aid for Three Development Projects

BK2712033491 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 27 Dec 91

[Text] The Japanese Government has offered a grant aid of 1,144 million yen, or 289 million baht, to Thailand to finance three major development projects.

The exchange of notes on the grant aid took place yesterday at the Department of Technical and Economic Cooperation (DTEC), with the DTEC director general representing the Thai side and the Japanese ambassador to Thailand representing the Japanese side.

The three projects include the provision of educational equipment for Pathumwan Technical College involving 124 million baht; the provision of equipment for road construction and rehabilitation program in the south involving 155 million baht; and the provision of equipment for preservation of cultural properties involving 10 million baht.

Mon State Leaders Jailed for Illegal Entry

BK2512025791 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 Dec 91 p A3

[Excerpt] The Kanchanaburi provincial court on Monday sentenced three senior leaders, including the military chief, of the Mon State to a three-month jail term after convicting them of illegal entry.

The three, Mon State commander in chief, Gen Mon, the New Mon Party secretary-general, Rossa, and his deputy, Hong Sa, were arrested in Sangkhla Buri in this province bordering Burma on Dec 3.

The Mon State, which is fighting Rangoon for greater autonomy, claimed that the arrest of the three involved entrapment. They also believed Thai authorities arrested them in retaliation for alleged harassment of Thai loggers by Mon insurgents.

But Mon leaders said the Thai loggers encroached on forest areas declared off-limit by the Mon state. [passage omitted]

King Delivers New Year Message to Thai People

BK3112150791 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1300 GMT 31 Dec 91

[New Year message by King Phumiphon Adunyadet—recorded]

[Text] All Thai people, as the New Year approaches, I would like to extend to all of you my best wishes, and I would also like to thank you greatly for the kind support and cooperation you have been giving to me for all my tasks.

Our country has been able to survive for so long thanks to the strong solidarity of the Thai people. Although we have experienced changes from time to time, those changes occurred because we wished it to be so because of our concern to see our country attain prosperity and progress. The task of national reconstruction is a common responsibility of all people in the country. It is therefore natural that conflicts exist at certain times. It would be rather unusual to see agreements all the time on the part of all sectors of the people over all matters. In this connection, we should place our common aspiration, that is, the prosperity of our nation, highest above all other interests. All of us should be fair and impartial, try to attain a clear mind and clear thinking, and forge mutual good understanding. We should then put together all the opinions we have put forth for comparison and study, based on theoretical principles, reason, justice, compassion, and unity in order to be able to see the truth. All parties would then be able to adjust their thinking and theories concerning all matters, making them conform in unity and consistency.

On this New Year, I appeal to you to take care of your physical and mental health so that you will be strong to perform your respective duties to the best of your abilities. Each person should try to fulfill his duties without delay. Whatever action he takes he should always consider carefully the overall national interest and the Thai characteristics so that his own task and the national task will progress properly and directly without any obstacle and achieve the desired benefits, happiness, and progress.

May the power of the three Buddhist gems [Lord Buddha, his teachings, and his disciples] and other sacred beings protect you from all dangers and evils, and give you strong physical, mental, and intellectual strength, and the power of unity in order to carry out major or minor tasks to successful completion, and eternally preserve national independence, Thai characteristics, and peace and happiness in our country forever.

May every one of you enjoy happiness and prosperity, be free from unhappiness and danger, and achieve your wishes always.

Group Proposes Independent Election Watchdog

BK2612012791 Bangkok THE NATION in English 26 Dec 91 p A1

[Text] An umbrella organization of academics, students, politicians and workers will propose to Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun that the planned national level poll watchdog be totally independent of the government, an academic said.

Surichai Wankaeo, coordinator of the Campaign for Popular Democracy Committee, told reporters that the committee, during its meeting yesterday, had decided that to ensure neutrality and efficiency such a body must be non-governmental.

"We will not cooperate with the Interior Ministry's election monitor or the proposed national-level committee being considered by Deputy Prime Minister Michai Ruchuphan," Surichai said.

The Chulalongkon University's political sciences lecturer said the Campaign for Popular Democracy Committee would ask the prime minister to give the independent body adequate authority, sufficient budget and access to government-run radio and television networks.

"Even if our request is refused we will go it alone," he said.

The academic said the proposed watchdog would also be entrusted with the task of providing a forum for political parties to publicize their political platforms and of educating the people about democratic principles. "The political forum will be held in all parts of the country in cooperation with political parties which will be given the opportunity to publicize their policies regarding the Constitution, human rights, the environment, national security, defence, women's issues, and so on," Surichai said.

The body is expected to become operational by the middle of next month when it will launch a political awareness campaign to promote greater public participation in the electoral process, he said.

The proposal for the independent watchdog will be presented to Anan the next time the prime minister meets representatives of the democracy campaign committee, according to Surichai. He said the body would report directly to the prime minister.

Anan has proposed that a national-level committee be established to ensure the upcoming election will be free and fair but its organizational setup has yet to be worked out by Michai.

Suchinda Skeptical of Committee

BK2812014491 Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 Dec 91 pp A1, A2

[Text] Deputy National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] chairman Gen Suchinda Khraprayun expressed scepticism yesterday that the planned independent poll watchdog would be neutral.

Suchinda, asked whether the formation of an electoral watchdog would make the general election fair, said: "How is that possible? Where are you going to find tens of thousands of officials who are neutral?

"No, there are no such people. There'll be no problem if a team is formed to observe the election."

He denied a report that NPKC chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong disagreed with the formation of the electoral watchdog. Gen Sunthon, he said, would not agree if the committee was empowered to act against those who violate electoral regulations.

Suchinda said there are already government officials entrusted with that responsibility.

However, he said he agreed with whatever the government plans to do. There would be some advantages in forming the watchdog committee, otherwise the government would not have initiated the idea, he added.

Asked to comment on a report that a number of academics had refused to be on the watchdog committee for fear of being made scapegoats, Gen Suchinda said: "How so? The watchdog committee would not have any power."

Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun has proposed that a poll watchdog be set up to ensure the upcoming general election would be fair. The structure of the organization has yet to be worked out by deputy Prime Minister Michai Ruchuphan.

In a related development yesterday, NPKC chairman Gen Sunthon said there was no need to question who was authorised under the new constitution to countersign His Majesty the King's appointment of the next prime minister.

"HM the King has endorsed the charter. If we still question the constitution, it is tantamount to paying no respect to the royal endorsement," said the general after leading about 500 military and police officers to wish former prime minister Gen Prem Tinsulanon a happy new year at his Si Sao Thewes residence.

Sunthon said there is no need for the NPKC and the government to consult each other to seek an amendment of the charter after HM the King's endorsement.

Solidarity Party spokesman, Sutham Saengprathum, has called on the government to draw up a constitutional amendment to abolish the right of the NPKC chairman to contersign HM the King's appointment of the next premier.

The amendment could take effect in only 20 days, said Sutham. He explained that the Cabinet can seek an amendment by referring to Article 211 of the constitution which allows amendments to be proposed by the Cabinet or no fewer than one-third of the elected MPs.

He suggested the NPKC and the Anan administration discuss the matter and that the government propose that the National Legislative Assembly (NLA) consider the issue in three readings.

Meanwhile, deputy Prime Minister Michai Ruchuphan said there is no need to worry about who is entitled to nominate the next prime minister.

'Watchdog' Committee To Be Set Up by Mid-Jan

BK2912013891 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 29 Dec 91 p 1

[Text] The Prime Minister's controversial proposal for a political watchdog to monitor the general election is expected to take shape finally by mid-January, human rights activist Khothom Ariya said yesterday.

Mr Khothom, who has been given full freedom by Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun to form the panel, said he is approaching several people to join it and the members should be known by January 15.

His disclosure came as argument continued over whether the election watchdog should have legal status and power to take action over vote-buying.

While pro-democracy academics, including some of those in the Campaign for Popular Democracy, have demanded that the watchdog be fully empowered to take legal action against election fraud, those in the military wing, including Supreme Commander Gen Suchinda Khraprayun, feel the watchdog should have no power.

The role of the panel should be limited to observing and monitoring the election since there is no way to ensure that those who are not government officials will remain impartial throughout the election, Gen Suchinda said on Friday.

National Peace-keeping Council chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong said he disagreed with the formation of the committee because the Interior Ministry is already responsible for the election under the election law.

Mr Khothom, responding to the argument, said it is no longer necessary for the committee to have special powers. The power of the committee will be more like that of newspapers.

"Without newspapers, anyone can do anything they want, such as being involved in corruption, because there is nobody to criticise them," Mr Khothom said.

Mr Khothom said that he has already been in touch with a number of people including student representatives, academics and lawyers to join him in the committee.

He conceded that a number of top academics have declined invitations to join the committee, but added this is not because they fear they may have to take the blame and become a scapegoat if the election goes wrong.

These academics appear to believe they can contribute to the country better in a different role, the Chulalongkon University lecturer said.

Amendment Urged on Choosing Prime Minister

BK2612013591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 26 Dec 91 p A2

[Text] The Solidarity Party has called on the government to draw up a constitutional amendment scrapping the right of the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] chairman from countersigning HM the King's appointment of the next prime minister, said the party spokesman yesterday.

Sutham Saengprathum said after a party meeting yesterday that the amendment could become effective within only 20 days.

"There is no need to interpret the charter at all, as it already indicates that the NPKC chairman is authorized to countersign HM the King's royal command in appointing a prime minister," he said.

He suggested that the NPKC and the Anan administration hold a meeting to discuss the matter and that the government propose that the National Legislative Assembly [NLA] considers the issue in three readings.

Sutham proposed that Article 216 of the provisional clauses in the new constitution be amended and that Articles 21, 22 and 23 of the interim constitution, that authorize NPKC chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong to countersign HM the King's appointment of the next premier, be scrapped.

Sutham said the Cabinet can seek an amendment by referring to Article 211 of the constitution which allows amendments to be proposed by the Cabinet or no fewer than one-third of the elected MPs.

He quoted party secretary-general Uthai Phimchaichon as saying that confusion could arise later if people simply believed in NLA president Ukrit Mongkhonnawin's affirmation that the House speaker is entitled to nominate the next premier.

Some legal experts suggested recently that a constitutional tribunal be formed to interpret the controversial points.

According to the original draft of the new charter, the NPKC would cease to exist on the day a post-election Parliament convenes its first session, which will take place before a government is formed.

The charter's ordinary section empowers the House of Representatives to nominate the prime minister. But with Article 21 and 23 of the interim constitution in effect until a post-election Cabinet is in place, many people foresee a major constitutional controversy.

Social Action Party Recruits 10 Former MP's

BK2512024591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 Dec 91 pp A3

[Text] The Social Action Party (SAP) has recruited more than 10 former MPs and is approaching others, including United Democratic Party leader Phon Roengprasoetwit, in preparation for the general election early next year, party leaders said.

SAP leader Montri Phongphanit said the recruitment would strengthen the position of the party in the election and predicted that the party would win a substantial number of seats in the House of Representatives.

"We want to be a major political party which can make a difference in the House of Representatives," Montri said.

Asked to comment on the controversial provisional clause of the Constitution on who would countersign the royal appointment of the next prime minister, the party leader said the Constitution clearly stipulated that the chairman of the National Peacekeeping Council would do this.

Lt Gen Khasem Kraisan, who formally assumed the SAP secretary generalship yesterday, said the party's new members included former Ubon Ratchathani MP Dusit Sophitcha, former Si Sa Ket MP Mahahing Praison, former Chiang Rai MP Wiraphon Muttamara.

"I have also invited United Democratic Party leader Col Phon to join the Social Action Party," Khasem said. "But he has yet to make a decision."

The secretary general said he was aware Phon had grouped together 12 followers, most of them former MPs, who would stand together in the next general election under the banner of the United Democratic Party or another party.

"Col Phon and I have been good friends and I would very much like to work with him in politics," he said.

Khasem, who has said he will stand in the central province of Ayuthaya in the election, said he had also assumed the position of campaign manager for the party.

He said he was not worried about the party's election campaign although Montri had been under investigation by the military-appointed Assets Investigation Committee for alleged corruption.

The appointment of the army general to the SAP's powerful post is widely perceived as an attempted trade-off between the party and the National Peacekeeping Council to allow the military to control the party in exchange for a favourable outcome of the asset investigation.

"I believe the party leader would be able to clear himself of the charge very soon," he said. "Whatever the result of the investigation, I was told by the party leader that the Social Action Party will do its best in the election campaign."

Prachakon Thai Party Confirms Merger Plans

BK2712010591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 27 Dec 91 p A2

[Text] Prachakon Thai Party leader Samak Suntharawet yesterday confirmed reports that the Liberal Party, led by Col Narong Kittikhachon, will merge with his party and revealed that another party which was dropped from the Chatchai administration when the former premier formed his final Cabinet last December would soon follow suit.

Samak refused to name the second party, saying he had promised its leader to keep it confidential until their negotiations were finalized today.

There are two parties which were excluded from the Chatchai II Cabinet: the Social Action Party [SAP] and the Muanchon Party led by Pol Capt Chaloem Yubamrung. The Democrat Party refused to join the last Chatchai government which brought in Prachakon Thai and the Solidarity Party from the opposition corner.

Political observers believe that Samak was referring to Muanchon because SAP is no smaller than Prachakon Thai, Samak and Chaloem also have a good personal relationship.

Chaloem has just returned from Denmark to face a criminal charge of bribing witnesses to distort their testimonies in the case concerning alleged assassination attempts on Her Majesty the Queen, as well as other charges.

Samak said the plan for the Liberal Party to merge with Prachakon Thai was definite. Narong could be given the post of deputy party leader or the chairmanship of the party's advisory board, currently held by veteran politician Samak Sirichan. Right now, there are two deputy leaders in Prachakon Thai, Yenchit Raphiphat and Decho Sawananon.

Samak also voiced objection to the interpretation that the chairman of the National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC) is empowered under a provisional clause of the Constitution to countersign the appointment of the next prime minister by His Majesty the King.

He said if the provisional clause was used, politics could hit a dead end because MPs would feel that the NPKC was imposing its own choice against their will.

The better way is for the House speaker to exercise his power, given under the Constitution's permanent section, to countersign the royal appointment, he said.

Chat Thai leader ACM Sombun Rahong yesterday denied that his party was an ally of the pro-military Samakkhi Tham Party and repeated his earlier pledge that he would be ready to take over as prime minister if the party won enough public support.

During an interview with reporters at Rama Garden Hotel, Sombun said he had no knowledge of Samakkhi Tham Party secretary-general Thiti Nakhonthap's comment that the two parties were political allies.

"We are ready to form an allince with any political party," said Sombun, who resigned as managing director of the Airports Authority of Thailand to succeed former premier Gen Chatchai Chunhawan as Chat Thai leader.

He said that the party had already fixed the constituencies for 90 percent of more than 100 former MPs which it plans to field in the polls, scheduled for March 22.

He would consult the secretary-general and the deputy leaders of his party on Jan 14 on the final list of the candidates, he said.

Sombun said his party aimed to win about 80 seats in the House.

The aim was not a lofty one because his party had made major economic achievements when it led the previous government.

"I believe these achievements would win trust from the people," he added.

Sombun evaded a question on whether his party would advocate an outsider as prime minister.

"Democracy is a matter of majority view. I will have to follow the majority view of our MPs over the question," he said.

Samakkhi Tham Party Legally Registered 26 Dec

BK2712012691 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 27 Dec 91 p 6

[Text] The Samakkhi Tham Party [STP] was approved as a legally registered party by the Interior Ministry's advisory commitee for political affairs yesterday.

Deputy Permanent Secretary of Interior Ministry Ari Wong-araya said yesterday that the committee had considered details of STP's policy and other requirements and had decided to approve the party as a legally registered political body.

Mr Ari said presently there was 19 legally registerd political parties and ten affiliated political parties under the committee's consideration.

Mr Ari confirmed that political parties that are not yet approved can conduct political campaigns but will not be allowed to field candidates in the general election.

National Assembly Passes Political Party Bill

BK2712075891 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 27 Dec 91

[Excerpts] A meeting of the National Legislative Assembly [NLA] was convened at the Parliament this morning with NLA Vice Chairman General Wichit Bunyawat presiding over the session commencing from 0935. [passage omitted]

The meeting brought up for consideration an urgent item—the draft political party bill—which was left over from the previous meeting last week. According to the draft, revised by a special scrutinizing committee in the second reading, the office of political party registration attached to the office of the permanent secretary of interior will be upgraded to division status, and any party subsidy given by a political party nonmember through the party's leader, an executive member, or member must be deposited into the party's bank account within seven days. If anyone fails to observe this rule, he will be subject to a maximum one-year prison term or fined within a maximum of 10,000 baht, or both. This is because problems have arisen making it neccessary for the investigation of politicians' assets.

After an extensive debate on all the articles in respective order, the NLA meeting at 1030 unanimously approved that the draft political party bill be passed into law.

Phalang Tham Party Leader Chamlong Interviewed

BK2812022291 Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 Dec 91 p A1

["Exclusive" interview with Chamlong Simuang, leader of the Phalang Tham Party and mayor of Bangkok, by NATION reporters Adisak Limprungphathanakit and Monwipha Wongruchira in Bangkok—date not given]

[Text] Maj Gen Chamlong Simuang has maintained that his role as Bangkok governor was "done", but whether he will resign to lead his Phalang Tham Party into the March 22 election is not something he will discuss at this stage.

Chamlong also said Phalang Tham is open to joining any other political parties, except for two, in a post-election coalition. He did not name the two parties, but acknowledged that their "chemistry does not mix" with Phalang Tham's.

Speaking to THE NATION in an exclusive interview at his simple home in Ratchawat, Chamlong said he had not decided whether to run in the general election.

But in answer to a question, Chamlong responded that he considered his job as Bangkok governor was "done."

Chamlong, one the country's most popular politicians, said he was content with the things he achieved in his six years as Bangkok governor. "I am ready to leave any time because there is always someone qualified enough to take my place," he said.

However, when asked specifically whether that meant he would run in the general election, Chamlong said: "It's not time yet to make a decision. There is still time and I want to evaluate the political situation first."

(In remarks at a New Year's party at City Hall yesterday, Chamlong said, tongue-in-cheek: "I may not continue to be Bangkok governor next year. If I am no longer governor, all my deputies will not be around either.")

Chamlong, whose party is expected to fare better than in the previous poll, said he will have to decide whether he can better serve the country as Bangkok governor or as an MP.

A devout Buddhist who eats only one meal a day, he was elected Bangkok governor [in] 1985. He was re-elected for a second four-year term in January 1990. His Phalang Tham Party also won control of the City Assembly in a subsequent election the same month.

The governor, who had fought in Laos as an army officer, resisted demands by some quarters in Phalang Tham that he run in the last general election in 1988. Chamlong said he then was convinced he would be in a better position to serve the country as Bangkok governor.

"Nobody can pressure me—even the Phalang Tham Party. I am always myself," he said when asked how he would respond to pressure from his party members who may want him to run in the general election.

But Chamlong admitted that Phalang Tham may lose an edge in the election if he decided not to run. "It is an acceptable argument, but I also have to weigh other factors. After all, it is not the number of seats to be won that is our primary concern." he said.

It was Chamlong's charisma which enabled Phalang Tham to win 14 seats in the 1988 election. Party members have expressed concern that without Chamlong's personal candidacy in the March election, they would find it difficult to attract voters.

Chamlong, however, said Phalang Tham wants to "grow a stable growth" and "has no policy to cheat to win".

Asked to comment on the post-election situation, Chamlong said Phalang Tham, which played a "neutral opposition" role in the previous parliament, was ready to form a coalition with any other political parties except for two which he refused to name.

Any decision to join a coalition, he said, is based on "who the partners will be and what portfolios we will be given".

Chamlong also expressed fears that the National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC) which seized power in February, will exercise considerable control over the next House through the appointed Senate.

Phalang Tham joined the New Aspiration and Solidarity parties in opposing the provisional clauses of the Constitution before it was approved by the National Legislative Assembly early this month. The clauses grant the Senate immense power vis-a-vis elected MPs.

Chamlong, who has made honesty and political virtue his trademark, denied that his party would ally with New Aspiration and Solidarity in the election, even though they had campaigned jointly against the provisional clauses.

On Phalang Tham's campaign platform, Chamlong said he will stress his party's achievements in Bangkok. "I think my six years in government is enough to testify to the party's achievements," he said but did not elaborate.

Chamlong declined to predict how many seats Phalang Tham would win in the election in Bangkok, but said as many as 150 people have applied to run as its candidates in the city.

He said his party will field candidates in all the 12 constituencies in Bangkok which will be represented by 35 MPs. Prachakon Thai and Democrat parties have been Phalang Tham's rivals in the Bangkok constituencies.

The governor said if he decided to run in the election he would do it in one of the Bangkok constituencies.

Members of Phalang Tham, he said, have also been campaigning in the country where they also hope to win seats in the election.

Development Board Head Views Economic Situation

BK2712152691 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 27 Dec 91

[Text] Phisit Phakkasem, secretary general of the National Economic and Social Development Board, today held a news conference on the country's economic situation in 1991 and 1992. He said that the economic growth rate had slowed down to only 7.5 percent in 1991 due to a decline in the agricultural production, which was reducing the people's purchasing power. The growth of private sector investment was reduced to 15 percent because of an increase in the prices of several factors, such as wages and land prices. However, slowdown in economic growth in 1991 has helped improve Thailand's economic stability. Inflation was only 5.6 percent and the current account deficit was about 200 billion baht. Treasury reserves stood at a good level of 183.30 billion baht.

Economic growth for 1992 will be better than that of 1991. The growth rate will be about eight percent and will be quite stable due to a world economic recovery, an increase in the people's purchasing power, and an improvement in border trade and the tourist industry. Moreover, interest rates will decrease and the inflation rate will remain at about 5.7 percent. The agricultural sector in 1992 will expand by 3.4 percent, while the industrial sector will register the same growth rate as in 1991—10 percent. The construction sector may be sluggish with a growth rate of 9.2 percent. However, government construction will expand. The country's trade balance and current account are expected to improve due to an expansion of exports and a recovery of tourism. 1992 Treasury reserves will still be at a high level—about 180 million baht.

Vietnam

Foreign Ministry Confirms Arrest of Americans

BK3112112191 Hong Kong AFP in English 1106 GMT 31 Dec 91

[Text] Hanoi, Dec 31 (AFP)—Two Vietnamese-born Americans are being held in Ho Chi Minh City on charges of misappropriating state property, a Vietnamese Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

The U.S. State Department said Monday that Vietnamese authorities had arrested Robert Lam, 51, and Giang Pham, 27, but had refused to inform the United States where the two men were being detained.

"To our knowledge Lam Van Quang and Pham To Giang are being detained in Ho Chi Minh City pending an investigation because they were accused of misappropriating public property," the spokesman said, using their Vietnamese names. He provided no details of the charges.

Relatives of the men in the United States said Lam, who heads a private Asian support group, disappeared in Ho Chi Minh City in late September while seeking a visa to visit Cambodia to organize a health care project for children.

Pham was arrested November 22 while looking for Lam, the relatives said. Pham's brother, Luu, said Pham feared that Lam's arrest was "politically motivated, based on some misconception that Lam was involved in subversive activity."

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Washington had repeatedly asked for access to the two detainees.

"As you know, we don't have diplomatic or consular relations with Vietnam. Consequently we're not in a position to accord normal consular protective services to U.S. citizens who are in Vietnam," Boucher said.

New Draft Constitution Called Liberal, Friendly

BK3112012991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 31 Dec 91 p A2

[Text] Hanoi—Vietnam yesterday unveiled a new draft constitution that gives the Vietnamese people freedom to do business and has clauses for the respect of human rights, together with more power for the prime minister.

The draft also adopted the spirit of the famous Guttenberg address that says the government of Vietnam "should be of the people, by the people and for the people" to replace the archaic version of a "proletarian dictatorship state."

The new 147-article draft constitution, which will be finalized in April next year, was published yesterday in all state-owned newspapers.

Nguyen Huy Thuc, a member of the Committee to Revise the 1980 Constitution, told a press conference that one-third of the amendments were necessary to reflect the dynamic changes in Vietnam's economic and political fields in a post Cold-War era.

The new draft constitution is comprehensive and radically revised," he said.

Gone were the lengthy and critical preambles that condemned its neighbours and major powers, especially the United States and China. The new preamble in the draft constitution is very short, mellowed down and touches only on Laos and Cambodia.

The draft also dropped the preamble dominating the 1980 constitution which stated that "fraternal friendship, military solidarity and cooperation in all fields with the Soviet Union, Laos, Cambodia and all other socialist countries will be on the basis of Marxist-Leninism."

"The new version of the constitution will be based on a policy of peace, friendship, expanded international relations and cooperation with all countries in the world irrespective of their political and social systems," said Thuc.

"It is also based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence," he added.

A Hanoi-based diplomat said the new draft constitution is "kinder and more friendly."

The draft's new elements were mostly related to economic reforms in Vietnam and new roles for the head of state in an expanded government structure although it still adheres to the idea that Marxist-Leninism is the country's guiding principle.

"The important thing is economic reforms and related provisions and not the political rhetoric," said the diplomat.

The draft reaffirms the path towards a market-oriented economy and the adoption of other measures that would strengthen the role of the private sector and encourage free-enterprise in Vietnam.

It will allow the prime minister to appoint the entire Cabinet, "so that they would be held responsible for their jobs," according to Thuc.

Leaders Congratulate Cuba on National Day

BK3012162191 Hanoi VNA in English 1525 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 30—Vietnamese party and state leaders today extended their warmest greetings to Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, president of both the State Council and the Council of Ministers on the 33d National Day of Cuba (Jan. 1).

The message which was jointly signed by Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, Vo Chi Cong, president of the State Council and Vo Van Kiet, chairman of the Council of Ministers, said:

The January 1st, 1959 victory has ushered in a new era in Cuba's history, the war of independence, freedom and socialism. Since then, under the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba, the heroic Cuban people have overcome numerous difficulties and obstacles and scored great achievements in their national construction and defense.

Now, the Cuban revolution is confronted with extremely difficult and complicated new challenges. But we firmly believe that, heightening their revolutionary spirit, the fraternal Cuban people will overcome all difficulties, successfully implement the resolutions of the Fourth Party Congress and obtain new achievements in the revolutionary cause.

The Vietnamese people have always treasured the militant solidarity, fraternal friendship and all round cooperation between Vietnam and Cuba in recent years and pledge to continually consolidate and strengthen that relationship in the interests of the two peoples, of peace and progress in the world.

The Vietnamese party and state leaders also expressed gratitude to the Cuban party, government and people for their support and precious assistance to the Vietnamese people's national construction and defence.

National Day Celebration Noted

BK3012162891 Hanoi VNA in English 1529 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 30—A get-together was arranged here this morning by the Vietnam Union of Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organization and the Vietnam-Cuba Friendship Association, to mark the 33rd national day of Cuba (January 1st). Ms. Nguyen Thi Dinh, president of the Vietnam-Cuba Friendship Association, Ms. Nguyen Thi Binh, president of the Union of Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organizations, were present at the function.

Ruben Perez Valdes, charge de affaires a.i., and other staff members of the Cuban Embassy were also present.

Speaking on this occasion, Ms. Nguyen Thi Dinh said:

The Vietnamese and Cuban people are close friends who share the ideal of striving for the maintenance of their national independence and freedom and for advance toward socialism. In spite of numerous difficulties, the Cuban people, with their indomitable spirit, will surely defend their gains.

For his part, Ruben Perez Valdes stated that despite the imperialists' schemes of sabotage against the Cuban revolution, the Cuban people are determined to defend their glorious cause and with the assistance of freedom and justice-loving people [item ends incomplete as received].

Le Quang Dao at 21 Dec National Assembly Session

BK2812084291 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 23 Dec 91

[Report on a speech delivered by Le Quang Dao, vice chairman of the Council of State and chairman of the National Assembly at 21 December National Assembly Session—partially recorded]

[Text] As has already been reported, at the 21 December 1991 National Assembly session, Mr. Le Quang Dao, vice chairman of the Council of State and chairman of the National Assembly, delivered a report in which he rounded up the term of office of the Eighth National Assembly; discussed what has been done by the National Assembly and what has not; and pointed out the strong points and existing shortcomings of the National Assembly, together with the causes for these shortcomings and those experiences learned by the National Assembly in various major fields of activity which may contribute to improving the activities of the National Assembly in its forthcoming term of office.

The report deals with various matters such as how the National Assembly has performed its various major constitutional and legislative functions, how it has decided on various important issues of the country, and how it has carried out its supervisory task. It also deals with those matters concerning the standing operational procedures of the National Assembly, the Council of State, the Nationalities Council, various standing committees of the National Assembly, numerous National Assembly delegations, and National Assembly deputies.

Worthy of note during the term of office of the Eighth National Assembly is that the National Assembly has made certain improvements in considering and deciding on important problems in the country, especially on the socioeconomic and state budget issue. However, many National Assembly deputies expressed their concern over the way the National Assembly had scrutinized and decided on the [1992] budget estimate and the final balance of the [1990] budget, claiming that its existing organizational and work methods have limited efforts to study and decide on the amounts of revenue and expenditure needed by each field of activity, each sector, and each locality, making it impossible to contribute practically to mapping out measures to increase revenue, fight tax collection shortfalls, and economize on spending for various key sectors.

In his report at the Natonal Assembly, National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao also pointed out that in this term of office, the National Assembly would decide on other issues, such as holding a preliminary meeting to decide on a personnel change for high-level state officials and the redemarcation of the administrative boundaries of a number of provinces and cities.

Rounding up the term of office of the Eighth National Assembly, National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao said:

[Begin recording] Generally speaking, one of the most striking successes during the term of office of the Eighth National Assembly is that there has existed a more pragmatic and democratic atmosphere. This is an initial but significant improvement in the activities of the National Assembly, the Council of State, the Nationalities Council, various standing committees of the National Assembly, many National Assembly delegations, and National Assembly deputies. Various aspects of the National Assembly's activities have been carried out in a more practical and democratic fashion—most evidently in its law-making work. A considerable number of laws promulgated during this term of office shows that the Eighth National Assembly and the Council of State have exerted great efforts to increase their legislative activities in order to meet the urgent demand for the administration of the state by means of law and the enhancement of socialist legislation.

Unlike the laws and orders which were promulgated by the Seventh National Assembly, which were aimed chiefly at reorganizing the state apparatus, the laws passed by the Eighth National Assembly cover a wide range of issues, such as promoting economic and political renovation, guaranteeing the people's right to mastery, and enhancing public order and discipline.

In performing its function of deciding on various important issues of the country and supervising the activities of state organs, the National Assembly, the Council of State, the Nationalities Council, and various committees, have made much effort and given much attention to those burning and urgent socioeconomic and law enforcement issues. These remarkable achievements were made possible thanks chiefly to the renovation of the party leadership over the activities of the National Assembly. The party has performed its leadership duty by setting forth many guiding policies, lines, and concepts on various major issues.

It was vital for the party to have paid high regard to the National Assembly's decision-making duty and its responsibility toward those matters within its functions and authority. It is thanks to this that the National Assembly has been able to surge forward to truly exercise its decision-making duty toward certain issues instead of merely raising hands to vote for pre-determined decisions. For this very reason, the National Assembly deputies have become more aware of their duty toward the people when it comes to voting for major national issues. It is also because of this that the Council of State, the Nationalities Council, various standing committees of the National Assembly, and all the National Assembly deputies strived to renovate their work methods and, on their own initiatives, to prepare, amend, supplement, and promulgate a statute for National Assembly deputies; those standing operational procedures for the Council of State, for the Nationalities Council, and for various standing committees of the National Assembly; and a by-law for National Assembly sesions. The National Assembly has renovated its work methods to perform its functions and duties more effectively.

The success of the National Assembly's activities is inseparable from the close relationships, better cooperation, and high sense of responsibility between the National Assembly, the Council of State, and other organs of the National Assembly on one side, and the Council of Minsiters, the Supreme People's Court, the Supreme People's Organ of Control, various sectors, ministries, the Fatherland Front, and mass organizations on the other. This shows that compared to its previous term of office, during this term of office of the National Assembly, the Council of Ministers displayed a higher sense of responsibility toward the National Assembly as seen through various reports it presented before the National Assembly and through the way it scrupulously answered those questions raised by the National Assembly deputies. However, the Eighth National Assembly's 10th session was still ladden with formalism when it came to discussing various matters, especially when the National Assembly decided on a number of important issues of the countries and on it's own supervisory matters. Unlike in its legislative work where some initial improvements have been made, the results obtained from activities within the above two areas of work were very limited and were far behind requirements arising from the situation and tasks.

The causes of formalism in the activities of the National Assembly are numerous, the most salient of which are that the organization of the National Assembly is not appropriate, is not strong enough, and is irrationally structured. Almost all of the deputies did not make much effort and spend enough time carrying out the activities of the National Assembly. Many members of the Council of State, of the Nationalities Council, and of various standing committees of the National Assembly are inexperienced and their activities are not good enough.

Although the Constitution—partly dealing with the organization of the National Assembly and the Council of State—clearly defines the functions, duties, and authority of the National Assembly, the Council of

States, and various standing committees of the National Assembly, the role of the National Assembly and of its standing committees has not been adequately upheld by various echelons, sectors, and responsible cadres. Meanwhile, many resolutions of the National Assembly, the standing operational procedures of the Council of State, and the many suggestions of the Nationalities Council, of various standing committees of the National Assembly, as well as of National Assembly deputies have, in many cases, not been given due attention and complied with scrupulously. The operational system, and the relations between the National Assembly and the party and between the National Assembly, the Council of State, the Nationalities Council, various standing committees of the National Assembly on one side and the Council of Ministers and other state organs on the other, have not been clearly defined.

It should be admitted that the drawbacks in work conditions, in material-technical facilities, and especially in the information circulation system, have adversely affected the quality and the success of various activities of the National Assembly. The Council of Ministers, various echelons, and various sectors have also not yet been able to create necessary conditions for the activities of the National Assembly, the Nationalities Council, various standing committees of the National Assembly, and various National Assembly delegations. Subjectively speaking, the National Assembly, the Council of State, the Nationalities Council, and various standing committees of the National Assembly, various National Assembly delegations, and National Assembly deputies have done enough to overcome objective difficulties. They have constantly renovated and improved their work methods in order to increase the results of various sessions of the National Assembly and of the Council of State and of the various activities of the Nationalities Council, of the standing committees of the National Assembly, of National Assembly delegations, and of National Assembly deputies themselves. [end recording]

Chairman Le Quang Dao ended his report by pointing out certain lessons from experience, saying that enhancing and renovating the party's leadership over the National Assembly is the most important factor for ensuring that the National Assembly will work in accordance with its functions and duties as prescribed in the constitution. It is necessary to constantly renovate the organization and working methods of the National Assembly, broaden democracy in the National Assembly's activities, and keep the people informed of all the activities of the National Assembly, while upholding the responsibility and activities of National Assembly deputies.

On 23 December, the National Assembly deputies held group discussions over those issues raised by the Council of Ministers, the Supreme People's Court, and the procurator of the Supreme People's Organ of Control in their roundup reports on activities carried out during the term of office of the Eighth National Assembly. The deputies also discussed the redivision of the administrative boundaries of a number of provinces.

At various group discussions, the majority of the deputies unanimously agreed with Comrade Le Quang Dao's 21 December report that rounds up the term of office of the Eighth National Assembly and that deals with the implementation of various functions and duties of the National Assembly, the Council of Ministers, the Council of State, the Supreme People's Court, and the procurator of the Supreme People's Organ of Control. The deputies also cited many shortcomings and analyzed the reasons for this. They felt the need to enhance the relations among and strengthen the work methods of the National Assembly, the Council of State, the Nationalities Council, and various standing committees of the National Assembly, as well as of the Council of Ministers, the Supreme People's Court and the Supreme People's Organ of Control.

Although there were some differences in their views, all the deputies stated: in the period ahead, we should further renovate our organizational activities and should take concrete measures to improve the efficiency of the National Assembly, the Council of Ministers, the Council of State, and other judicial organs.

The deputies also expressed their views centering around the National Assembly's recent decision to redivide the administrative boundaries of a number of provinces.

On 24 December, the National Assembly will continue to be in session.

Australia

Foreign Minister Evans Comments on Bush's Visit

Trade Top Issue for Talks

BK3112061891 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 31 Dec 91

[Text] The Australian foreign minister, Gareth Evans, says Australia cannot realistically expect the United States to immediately end its farm subsidies. Trade will be a top issue for talks with President George Bush who arrives in Sydney tonight for a brief stay in Australia on the first leg of an Asia-Pacific tour.

Both the prime minister, Paul Keating, and the National Farmers Federation planned to point out to Mr. Bush that America's export enhancement program is flushing hundreds of millions of dollars from the incomes of Australian farmers.

Senator Evans describes Mr. Bush's trip as essentially a goodwill visit, but he says in talks with the American leader, Australia will be stressing the need for a successful outcome to the GATT talks on world trade and he adds a successful end to those talks will erase the need for the American subsidy program.

Tough Negotiations To Continue

BK3112100891 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 31 Dec 91

[From the program "International Report"]

[Excerpts] The United States President George Bush arrives in Australia this evening for what will be the first presidential trip here since 1967. Mr. Bush's three days in Australia will be the first leg of an Asian tour that takes him on to Singapore, South Korea, and Japan.

When planning began on the tour early in 1991 it was to be a symbolic visit to America's firmest allies in the Western Pacific, but as Graeme Dobell reports from Canberra, trade issues look set to take up a large part of the main agenda.

[Begin recording] [Dobell] In one sense, the Bush visit to Asia marks the start of the president's election campaign for 1992. Before leaving Washington, Mr. Bush was making the traditional remarks about America holding on to its place as a Pacific power, but the new language in his comments was all about protecting American jobs and Asian partners having to do more to protect the open international trading system.

This was the language to be expected from a president suffering in the polls along with his economy. The original Asian tour by President Bush timed to start at the end of November was cancelled because of domestic political difficulties. One reason it was rescheduled so quickly was the adverse reaction to the cancellation in Asia, particularly in Japan and the seeming reaffirmation of the view that President Bush has found it hard to fit Asia into his vision of the new world order. One of America's former Asia watchers, Professor Chamas Johnson:

[Johnson] I think the more embarassing thing about the Bush visit is the cancellation of about a month ago. That is to say many of us do believe that he cancelled the wrong visit. That is, he instead went to a NATO meeting in Rome which is as an institution directed against the USSR and as the USSR is falling apart into [words indistint] individual Russian. Of all the things that are not particularly important any more is NATO whereas the reason allegedly for cancelling his trip to East Asia was domestic economic problems. But the truth of the matter is most of his economic problems can be traced to problems he has in East Asia. So, assuredly, he seems to have cancelled the wrong trip. It is then put together in a rather hurried manner and we would like to believe there was an emerging American economic strategy—a strategy for living at peace and profitably with Japan and its emulators in what is today the great dynamic economic area on earth. But I am afraid one fears that this is more of an election year. That is that 1992 is an American presidential election year and this is the first sign of it and this visit is mostly grand kabuki and that he is bringing with him some prominent American businessmen who will want to criticize the Japanese. [passage omitted]

Australia's view of the trip has also sharpened, particularly on the harm being caused to Australian farmers by America's export enhancement scheme. America says it is using the scheme which subsidizes sales of its wheat and other agricultural commodities to fight the unfair market share won by the farm subsidies of the European Community. But Australia says the America EEP [Export Enhancement Program] has been extended to 73 countries since 1987, driving down wool prices and costing Australian farmers hundreds of millions of dollars. Here is Australia's minister for foreign affairs and trade, Gareth Evans, speaking to John (Shevaland) about the areas Canberra wants to cover with President Bush.

[Evans] Well, essentially it is a goodwill visit. The main substantive focus will be on the trade issue, the finalization of GATT round in a way satisfactory to all of us. There would also be an emphasis on regional security issues and cleaning up, hopefully, the situation in Cambodia with some quick action of getting the UN forces in there and there are a number of related issues that (?come).

[(Shevaland]) Is it possible for Australia to be at all tough in the trade negotiations?

[Evans] Well, we have been tough from the onset. The Australian Government initiated the Cairns, brought up third force into the agricultural negotiations, stopped any suggestion of an early quick-fix between the United States and the European Community of a kind that had happened before. We have done a lot to affect the agenda and we will continue to do a lot to follow the thing right through to the end. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Alliance With U.S. 'Central'

BK3112092491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0523 GMT 31 Dec 91

[Text] Canberra, Dec 31 (AFP)—The alliance with the United States is "absolutely central" to Australian foreign policy, Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said on Tuesday, hours before U.S. President George Bush was due to start a state visit.

Evans was commenting in a radio interview on plans by the eight Australian Democrat senators to boycott an address by Bush to a joint session of parliament on Thursday.

Bush is due in Sydney at 8.00 p.m. (0900 GMT) to watch the traditional New Year's Eve fireworks display on the harbour with Prime Minister Paul Keating and his family before going to Canberra on Wednesday.

The senators, members of a small opposition party, are protesting at the cost—estimated at 2 million dollars (1.5 million U.S.)—of recalling the Senate and House of Representatives during the Christmas recess.

Describing the boycott as "churlish and superficial," Evans said:

"Our alliance with the U.S. remains an absolutely central element in Australia's foreign policy."

But Evans also said it was "crucial" that Australia express its opposition to U.S. trade subsidies.

Members of the National Farmers Federation will meet Bush in Parliament House on Thursday before his address to the joint session to explain their views on the U.S. Export Enhancement Program.

Hundreds of farmers are due to rally outside parliament at the same time.

Australia cannot realistically expect Washington to halt agricultural trade subsidies overnight, Evans said, but it could expect a sympathetic hearing from Bush.

"We are talking essentially the same language," Evans said.

"It is crucial President Bush be made aware of the impact the American subsidies are having on Australian farmers and I don't think he will leave in any doubt about that," he said.

100 Protest Against Bush Visit, Bases in Sydney

BK3112074891 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0700 GMT 31 Dec 91

[Excerpts] The Australian foreign minister, Gareth Evans, says Australia cannot realistically expect the United States to immediately end its farm subsidies. [passage omitted]

In Sydney, about 100 people have gathered outside the American Consulate to protest against the visit to Australia by President George Bush. Radio Australia's Sydney office says the group raised concerns about American bases in Australia and United States policy on issues such as abolition law and the American economic blockade of Cuba.